

THE BULLETIN

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF DECATUR COUNTY

Volume 2 - No. 51

Greensburg, Indiana

April 8, 1972

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Robert Hall - Kokomo
Mrs. Mary E. McCoy
Miss Robin Redmon
Marc Griffin - Beech Grove
Dr. Charles J. Miller
Downey, Calif.
Mrs. Betty Siefker
John Acra
Mrs. John Acra
George E. Morton - New Point
Mrs. Nora Kroger
Donald Galbraith
Mrs. Donald Galbraith
Emerson L. Barclay - Acton
William J. Barclay - Indpls.
Mrs. William Westerfeld - Indpls.
Mrs. Norman Finkhouser - Indpls.
Mrs. Harry Keller - Indpls.
Mrs. H. B. Gray - Indpls.
W. Stewart Woodfill - 703
Scottsdale, Ariz.
(Life Member)

OCCASION: Spring Meeting

SPEAKER: Mr. Robert Montgomery

DATE: Sunday afternoon, April 23rd,
1972 at 2:00 P.M.

PLACE: First Baptist Church, Social
Hall, 209 W. Washington St.,
Greensburg, Indiana

Our speaker is the director of the Indiana Junior Historical Society and will have for his subject-
TOLESTONE INSCRIPTIONS. He has collected hundreds of these in years past and like any collection when assembled makes for an interesting topic.
Mr. Montgomery formerly taught history at Sand Creek Twp. High School and was instrumental in reorganizing our local society of which he is a long time member. Plan to attend!

EVERYBODY IS WELCOME!!

THE SOCIETY'S OFFICERS 1972

* * *

President----- Dale G. Myers
1st. V.P.----- Van P. Batterton
2nd V.P.----- Raymond Carr
Corresponding Secty.-----
Mrs. Leonilla Lauderdale
710 N. Franklin St.
Greensburg, Indiana 47240
Recording Secty.-----
Mrs. Dorothy D. Doles
303 E. Central Ave.
Greensburg, Indiana 47240
Treasurer----- Miss Alpha Thackery

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"Though the pathfinders die,
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Editor-THE BULLETIN

Paul H. Huber
323 N. Broadway
Greensburg, Indiana 47240

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THE DEVIL'S WASHBOARD- The county line road North from Enochsb-
burg is so-called because of its undulating profile. (Webster
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It was a mud road until the thirties and is yet unpaved.

HARDING'S HILL- A long winding hill between Rossburg and
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at the bottom, it was a challenge for the boys to negotiate
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Some did and some didn't.

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(we must distinguish between Big and Little Flat) after
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COMMEMORATIVE BOOK
GREENSBURG SESQUICENTENNIAL
1822-1972

In the spring of 1971, a ninth grade English class in Greensburg Community High School became interested in publishing a book of photographs and text to commemorate the establishment of Decatur County and the naming of Greensburg as the county seat in the year 1822. The purpose of the book is to show the changes which have taken place in the 150 years of our existence and to celebrate this sesquicentennial anniversary. The class of twenty-two boys helped to plan the contents of the book and are handling the printing, collating, and distribution of the book, which should be available early in May. The text was written by members of another ninth grade English class, and the printing was done in the Greensburg Community High School Printing Department. The commemorative book will be available to the public. To cover the cost of publication, there will be a \$1.00 charge for each copy purchased locally. If the copy must be mailed, please add an additional twenty-five cents to cover the cost of mailing. If you wish to order a book, call Greensburg Community High School and give your name and address, or mail your order to Greensburg Community High School, % Mrs. George I. Fogg, R. R. 8, Greensburg, Indiana 47240. For books which must be mailed, send \$1.25 to cover the cost of the book and the postage. We would appreciate your support of this student project.

od's note- We have it from an outside source that the book is very worth while and especially so since it is illustrated. The publication of this book could well serve - as its title indicates - in commemoration of Decatur County's Sesquicentennial. This in lieu of the usual stylized pageantry with parades, beads and the like - to say nothing of the commercial aspects. Our suggestion - order by mail! Now!

Following is an article from the book.

GREENSBURG
DECATUR COUNTY
1822-1972

History has different meaning for different people. Older people see Greensburg as it was when they were younger, remembering the good and the bad. Younger people see it as they hope it will be. Children live continually in the present, enjoying each day with little thought of tomorrow. Depending upon your age, Greensburg is either your past, your present, or your future. No book records the nostalgia of the past unless the author writes of the immediate past of his own generation. Time softens his memory, and the telling becomes legend. Part of the recorded history of our community is legend and part fact. Fortunately, records have been kept officially since 1822, and through these records we can learn something of the character of the early settlers.

It is a matter of record that Thomas Hendricks, the founder of Greensburg, was appointed by the Federal Government to survey and lay out part of the "New Purchase" land acquired from the Delaware Indians by the Treaty of St. Mary's in 1819. Apparently Hendricks was selected because of his political connections; his brother, William Hendricks, was at that time serving in the United States Congress. He later became the second Governor of Indiana, which undoubtedly influenced some of the decisions made at the state level concerning the future of Greensburg. The surveying team arrived in the spring of 1820, coming from Westmoreland County in Pennsylvania. On October 27, 1820, Thomas Hendricks filed claim to the land which is now Greensburg. Some people have stated that Hendricks' land would eventually become the county seat because it was in the center of what was to become Decatur County. No doubt it was with foresight that he chose this particular parcel of land.

People then, as now, were always alert to the political implications of any public decision. Of the four sites offered for the county seat, the tract accepted was the one offered by Thomas Hendricks and John Walker, another early settler. It consisted of one hundred acres. Naturally those who lost the decision were quick to accuse the two men of logrolling in Shelby and Rush Counties, which were being organized at the same time. No doubt their political pull had some influence because we find evidence later that the founders of Greensburg used whatever means necessary to accomplish their goals. The Board of Commissioners were given orders to plat the city, and the lots were offered for sale on Monday, September 1, 1822. The thirty-six lots which were sold on the first day brought \$1572.81 $\frac{1}{4}$.

Thomas Hendricks returned to Pennsylvania after his work was completed here, and in the spring of 1821 he brought his wife and his children to his newly acquired land. His home was the first to be built in the new community and was located near the corner of East and Taylor Street (now Central Avenue). It served as the first seat of the local government, one of the first places where church was held, and an inn for travelers. Perhaps this is the reason for singling out Thomas Hendricks as the founder of Greensburg. He seemed to be the natural leader to whom all of the settlers turned in those early days.

Whenever we study history, we sometimes lose sight of the conditions under which men of an earlier time were forced to work. No place could have been more primitive than Decatur County in 1822. The men who came first had to cut their way through underbrush, make their own paths, transport their own possessions on foot northward from the Ohio River, and provide their own food and clothing from their natural surroundings. Once their crude log homes were built, they started clearing the land, planting crops, building basic industries such as mills, cabinet shops, stores for basic supplies, a post office, and later foundries, carriage factories, drug stores, a courthouse, and all the businesses necessary to living in an established and growing community. Churches and schools were constructed at an early date. Religion was essential. The early wills are evidence of the importance men placed upon their spiritual beliefs. The first concern of the testator was to commend his soul to God; then he dictated the disposal of his worldly goods. Education was provided even before the state required the establishment of public schools. Of course the teacher only had to be able "to read a little and write a little" to qualify as a teacher, and the students were no more eager to attend school than some are today, but the parents knew the value of "larnin'" and saw to it that their children attended school a few months each year. Nathan Hobbs conducted the first school in the winter of 1820.

As time passed and living conditions improved, the residents of this area followed national trends of interest. They became actively involved in politics. They sought ways to attract new business to the community. One of these efforts is recognizable in the attempt to make Greensburg a railroad center. As early as 1832, plans were talked about for building a railroad through Decatur County, but it was not until 1850 that a line was established from North Vernon to Greensburg. In 1853 the Rushville-Lawrenceburg Railroad Company planned a railroad that would pass about six miles northeast of Greensburg. The people organized themselves and decided that the county would buy \$50,000 in stock in the company so that the railroad would have Greensburg as one of its terminals. Exciting was the day when the first train rumbled into Greensburg. The railroad was extended to Indianapolis in 1854. Perhaps nothing in her development has contributed more to the prosperity of Greensburg than becoming a railroad center did. Business opportunity grew, social standards improved with the resultant prosperity, population increased, improved transportation made the citizens less dependent upon a local economy--Greensburg was alive. Now the need for railroads has diminished, but the effects of almost one hundred years of its influence remain. Some of you can still remember the train's whistle, a puff of black smoke, and the clicking of the wheels; and the era of growth and prosperity becomes a pleasant memory because some men were willing to make a monetary investment, for whatever reason, to keep a community alive.

The late 1800's and the early 1900's were a golden time all over the country, and we find evidence that life took on a new aspect in Decatur County. Large brick homes were constructed then and are still being enjoyed by local residents. Gracious living replaced

the practical existence which primitive conditions demanded. Ladies prided themselves in being "ladies" and valued their femininity, probably because it was their best defense in a male dominated world. It was a parasol and cut glass age, sheltered yet sparkling; it was an age of good manners and proper conduct; it was an age of ornate dress and studied beauty. Antimacassars and doilies gave the Victorian homes a fussy appearance. The popular parlor sets, a settee and chairs, were usually delicately carved, pretty to look at, but uncomfortable. Life centered around the family. For those who can remember, it was a pleasant time.

The next era of significance was that of World War I. Never has the nation been so united in a common effort as it was then. No man, woman, or child failed to respond to a call to service, whether it be fighting for our country, rolling bandages, selling or buying Liberty Bonds, knitting warm clothing for the doughboys, or offering moral support to the soldiers and the government. After this war which was supposed "to end all wars" was over, the whole complexion of the country changed. As often happens following a war, there was an era of extreme affluence and the attending change in values. The modest Victorian girl became a "flapper", bedecked in long strands of beads, very short skirts, and defiantly sporting a "boy-bob". It was an age of bootleggers and booze. Girls brazenly smoked cigarettes in public. The speakeasy made its appearance in cities. The times, in general, were shocking ones. Even in Greensburg, the impact of the change in moral values was felt. Many mothers wept when their daughters had their hair cut in the terrible fashion of the day. All adults reacted to the music of the young--jazz! It was a time which is comparable to today. Spiraling costs and increased spending led us into the worst depression we have ever experienced. Because Greensburg has never had the extremes of wealth and poverty that are found in some communities, we were not as affected by it as some other communities were. This proved to be a leveling off period.

Since that time, we have been affected by three wars in which we have become actively involved, not to mention the areas of unrest which have called for military or economic aid from the United States. The great difference today in our attitudes is the lack of agreement in solving the problems we face today. We are concerned about the national situation, even the world situation; but we react quickly to local situations. Our first question is "How is this action going to affect me?" Usually we mean "How much is this going to cost me?" Man used to be concerned with creating an opportunity for his children to have a better life in the future; now he is more concerned with living in the present, with having all of the material goods he ever wanted for himself and for his family.

Yes, values have changed in 150 years, but man is motivated now as he was in 1822. He constantly seeks a better life. There is no doubt that this motivation has been one of the factors in keeping this community alive.

HELP WANTED- V.P. Raymond Carr needs No. 20 issue of the BULLETIN to complete his file. This issue is important to him because it contains a roster for the residents of New Point in 1911-1912. Who has an extra copy? Please!

AN INQUIRY- Miss Helen H. Gordon, 4620 Forest, Kansas City, Missouri, 64110, would appreciate information re the family of Andrew Clingenpoel who lived in the Westport area from 1850 through the 1870's. He made a deed in February 1862 whereby he gave land for the formation of a non-denominational church to be named Union Church.

TIME FOR BASEBALL- We called it "scrub". Essentially a base ball game, whereas the regulation game as we know it, required eighteen players or two teams, scrub could be played and enjoyed by as few as nine players. The line-up would consist of three batters, a pitcher and a catcher, and a fielding crew of three or four boys occupying the bases with one to three boys covering the outfield. As a batter was retired (put out) by reason of a fielder catching a fly ball or the runner caught between the bases, this batter took his place in the field and did not bat again until he had worked his way yp through all of the positions. When an out was made the catcher became the batter, the pitcher became the catcher and the first baseman moved to the pitcher's box. It was an excellent game for a limited number of players and it gave each boy the opportunity to play every position. The ball was a twine ball sowed by some gifted mother and the bat in the absence of a Louisville Slugger might well have been fashioned from a hickory stick. Scrub was a great game and everybody enjoyed the good clean fun, which was the important thing.

FIRE INSURANCE- Squire Douglas Perry a resident of Salt Creek township in 1887 and whose P.O. address was Wintersville, insured his household effects in the amount of \$335.00 with THE MECHANICSBURG HOME MUTUAL FIRE INSURANCE CO. against loss by fire and lightning.... Wesley Glidewell was the president of the company, A. Sample its secretary and W. S. Maple was the appraiser.... An insurance policy (like life itself) was a simple matter in those days. Questions asked were- Where do you keep your ashes? How do you keep your matches? Particularly noticeable was the absence of any fine print or riders!

MEMBERSHIP- With an active list of 404 members the Society may be said to be growing since its reorganization in 1959. Mrs. Pauline Ball has the distinction of being Number (1) member and Mr. Woodfill (703 is our latest member. Many former members are deceased and some have been dropped for failure to pay dues. There are presently 54 members out of state with 22 states represented. Mrs. Schlachter, a member lives in Switzerland. Florida leads with 12 members and California is second with 9.

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Yes, values have changed in 150 years, but man is motivated now as he was in 1822. He constantly seeks a better life. There is no doubt that this motivation has been one of the factors in keeping this community alive.

HELP WANTED- V.P. Raymond Carr needs No. 20 issue of the BULLETIN to complete his file. This issue is important to him because it contains a roster for the residents of New Point in 1911-1912. Who has an extra copy? Please!

AN INQUIRY- Miss Helen H. Gordon, 4620 Forest, Kansas City, Missouri, 64110, would appreciate information re the family of Andrew Clingenpeel who lived in the Westport area from 1850 through the 1870's. He made a deed in February 1862 whereby he gave land for the formation of a non-denominational church to be named Union Church.

TIME FOR BASEBALL- We called it "scrub". Essentially a base ball game, whereas the regulation game as we know it, required eighteen players or two teams, scrub could be played and enjoyed by as few as nine players. The line-up would consist of three batters, a pitcher and a catcher, and a fielding crew of three or four boys occupying the bases with one to three boys covering the outfield. As a batter was retired (put out) by reason of a fielder catching a fly ball or the runner caught between the bases, this batter took his place in the field and did not bat again until he had worked his way yp through all of the positions. When an out was made the catcher became the batter, the pitcher became the catcher and the first baseman moved to the pitcher's box. It was an excellent game for a limited number of players and it gave each boy the opportunity to play every position. The ball was a twine ball sowed by some gifted mother and the bat in the absence of a Louisville Slugger might well have been fashioned from a hickory stick. Scrub was a great game and everybody enjoyed the good clean fun, which was the important thing.

FIRE INSURANCE- Squire Douglas Perry a resident of Salt Creek township in 1887 and whose P.O. address was Wintersville, insured his household effects in the amount of \$335.00 with THE MECHANICS-BURG HOME MUTUAL FIRE INSURANCE CO. against loss by fire and lightning.... Wesley Glidewell was the president of the company, A. Sample its secretary and W. S. Maple was the appraiser.... An insurance policy (like life itself) was a simple matter in those days. Questions asked were- Where do you keep your ashes? How do you keep your matches? Particularly noticeable was the absence of any fine print or riders!

MEMBERSHIP- With an active list of 404 members the Society may be said to be growing since its reorganization in 1959. Mrs. Pauline Ball has the distinction of being Number (1) member and Mr. Woodfill (703 is our latest member. Many former members are deceased and some have been dropped for failure to pay dues. There are presently 54 members out of state with 22 states represented. Mrs. Schlachter, a member lives in Switzerland. Florida leads with 12 members and California is second with 9.

THE BULLETIN

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF DECATUR COUNTY

Volume 2 - No. 52

Greensburg, Indiana

July 8, 1972

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

Alden Westhafer
George Metz - New Point
Robert Frensemeier
Mrs. Robert Frensemeier
Earl W. Thrasher - Westport
Robert D. Morgan
Mrs. Betty McIntyre
Mrs. G. L. Barnett-Kansas City, Mo.
Rev. Benjamin Nyce - Lakeland, Fla.
Mrs. Albert M. Rust - Zionsville
W. Dwight Shera - Westport
Mrs. W. Dwight Shera - Westport
Jerry Easley 716

OCCASION: Summer Meeting

SPEAKER: Prof. David R. Hermanson

DATE: Sunday afternoon, July 23rd,
1972 at 2:00 P.M.

PLACE: Fellowship Hall
Presbyterian Church
Greensburg, Indiana
Entrance on Washington St.
Professor Hermanson of the School of
Architecture, Ball State University,
Muncie, Indiana, will discuss and
show slides of his favorite subject-
INDIANA COURT HOUSES OF THE 19th
CENTURY.

* * *

EVERYBODY IS WELCOME!

THE SOCIETY'S OFFICERS 1972

President----- Dale G. Myers
1st. V.P.----- Van P. Batterton
2nd V.P.-----Raymond Carr
Corresponding Secty.-----
Mrs. Leonilla Lauderdale
710 N. Franklin St.
Greensburg, Indiana 47240
Recording Secty.-----
Mrs. Dorothy D. Doles
303 E. Central Ave.
Greensburg, Indiana
47240
Treasurer----- Miss Alpha Thackery

* * *

OLD FAIRGROUNDS- The area between
North Broadway and Monfort Street
and extending North from Second
Street to a half-block North of Fifth
Street was sold to the Decatur County
Agricultural Society in 1859 by
Benjamin Randel. In turn the property
was sold in 1869 to Erastus L. Floyd
who platted the area in what is known
today as Floyd's First Addition to
the City of Greensburg. Soldiers
trained here before going to the
Civil War 1861-1865.

* * *

THE LAST MEETING- Our good member, Robert W. Montgomery, and director of the
Indiana Junior Historical Society, presented a program on "Tombstone Inscrip-
tions". His narration which accompanied hundreds of slides was most interest-
ing and it was very evident that he had travelled far and wide in pursuit of
his hobby. Dealing with a tender subject as any tribute to our dead may be,
Mr. Montgomery, without being facetious, cleverly led his listeners from one
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another worth-while program.

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Now we have pretty well eliminated the tire trouble but seem to be unable to catch up on roads on which to run our cars. Until the early 1900s the roads or pikes were mostly unimproved, passable only in the summertime and when frozen. The first improved road in Decatur County was from Greensburg to Turner's Quarry. The early macadam or stone roads were built by spreading large rocks or rubble along the right-of-way and breaking them up by hand, a slow tedious process. With the perfection of the mechanical stone crusher and the clamor of the public for improved roads and streets upon which to run their cars, a massive road building program was started.

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Pikes and stone roads were soon build built over the county and in the city, and we began to get out of the mud if not the dust. Greensburg purchased a water wagon to dampen down the streets in dry spells, which helped a little bit to placate the irate housewives. Broadway and Franklin were two of the first streets improved. Main Street was paved with brick for its entire length....The "Air Line" pike north of Greensburg was the first "Tarvia" road in the county, among the first in the state, and is now usually known as the "Stewart" road. A concrete road was built from Greensburg to Clarksburg in the twenties. Innumerable quarry holes all over the county, stand in mute reminder of the toil and sweat which made these roads possible. Now all of our city streets are black-topped as well as most of our important county roads.

William H. Parker

BERRY'S TRACE

This trail was cut about 1808 by John Berry (1777-1835). It began at Napoleon, ran west to Flat Rock and Blue Rivers, and thence northward into Central Indiana. The Trace branched off the Brownstown-Brookville Road.

Erected by the Society of Indiana Pioneers 1972.

This marker located across from the Napoleon Feed Mill on U.S. 421, was dedicated Sunday afternoon, May 21st. by the Indiana Society of Pioneers. The Trace was actually a trail which is now part of the Millhousen Road northwest from Napoleon to Letts and on to Edinburg.... Mrs. Floyd Miller of Napoleon and Mrs. Wayne Einhaus of Osgood spent a year researching records to prove the exact location where John Berry started blazing this trail in southern Indiana..... Here is further evidence that all early roads led to or from Napoleon as George Cary Eggleston once stated-ed.

GERMAN IMMIGRANTS IN THE MILLHOUSEN AREA
(Compiled by Charles Hessler)

German settlers have been especially prominent in the area surrounding Millhousen. Using Father Carl Riebenthaler's A Century of Catholicity in Millhousen, Indiana (1934), the available federal censuses, and an 1867 plat map, I have been able to identify over ninety naturalized citizens in the records of Decatur and Ripley counties, who lived in the Millhousen vicinity. In the list presented on the following pages I have abstracted all pertinent information from the naturalization records of these immigrants. Clearly, this profile of Millhousen settlers is incomplete: many prominent families--e.g., M. Schneider, Voerkamp, Hardebeck, Wilmer---are entirely missing. Many immigrants either were never naturalized or were naturalized before arriving in this area. Still, a great deal can be learned from these entries, even though they are sometimes disappointing.

Many of the early immigrants were High or Middle Germans, from southern and central Germany. Later, settlers from northern Germany, Low Germans, dominated the list of immigrants. Sometimes, the early entries contain specific information about point of origin in Germany, though of course the spelling is atrocious. As the format for naturalization entries became standardized, the information given is generally less interesting.

Again, I have corrected certain spellings; alternate spellings are shown in parentheses when that seemed appropriate. The list for each county is arranged chronologically. The age given for an immigrant is as of the date of the naturalization entry unless otherwise stated; this date is found in parentheses following the abstracted information.

In general terms, the Millhousen area may be defined as Southern Marion Twp. (Decatur), western Jackson Twp (Ripley), and northeastern Columbia Twp (Jennings). In the case of Decatur Co. immigrants, naturalization entries before 1854 can be found in the Civil Order Books; starting in 1854, they were usually recorded in a separate volume. Full citizenship, so-called "second papers", are found in the order books of the Circuit Court or the common pleas court. In Ripley County the only entries on Millhousen Settlers which I have found so far were in the Civil Order Books. In addition, I made a preliminary search of Jennings County records; although I know a few Millhousen families lived in Columbia Twp., I was unable to locate any relevant naturalization entries. Incidentally, in Jennings County most naturalization records are found in the Probate Order Books, but a fire in the 1870's may have destroyed some records.

I exercised reasonable care in determining whether or not each immigrant was actually a resident of the Millhousen area. Even so, the list may contain some surprises. It should be remembered that the Catholic parish, which serves as the focal point for most German immigrants in the vicinity, originally covered a rather large area, including even Napoleon. Also, several Frenchmen and one Dutchman are included in this list: most of the French immigrants were probably

from Alsace-Lorraine which, along with Holland, is mostly German in culture.

Millhousen Immigrants in Decatur County Records

GIGOS, BLASIUS, native of Altking in the province of Bisel in France; arrived in U. S. on 14 Jun 1836 (16 May 1837)

HESSLER, CONRAD, native of Aschaffenburg; arrived in the U. S. in July 1838 (20 Apr 1839)

LINK, FRANCIS, native of Germany, born 1807; arrived at New York on 16 Sep 1837; owes allegiance to Leopold, Emperor of Germany (sic: probably means Leopold, Grand-Duke of Baden) (20 Apr 1840); full citizenship granted in 1848; character witnesses were Anthony Degant and Adam Wenner (30 Sep 1848)

KLEIN, LORENZ, native of France, about 21 years old; arrived at New Orleans in May 1840 (15 Sep 1840)

RUHL, GERHARD, native of Harpston, Germany; arrived in the United States on 1 Sep 1837 (4 Jan 1841); when granted full citizenship in 1844 birthplace was given as Harpstone, Hesse; Maximillian Schneider was a character witness (20 May 1844)

KUEMMEL (Kimmel), JOHN PETER, native of Slictien, Lower Hesse, born 1803; arrived at Baltimore on 13 June 1836 (1 May 1841)

STROOTMANN? (Shoptow), GEORGE, native of Donow, Prussia, born 1802; arrived at Baltimore on 1 Sep 1839 (12 Sep 1842); granted citizenship in 1845 with Aaron Lohmiller and Louis Meyer as witnesses (10 Nov 1845)

HESSLER, ADAM, native of Shilgrape, Bavaria; arrived in the United States in Jun 1840 (23 Aug 1843); in 1848 full citizenship was granted with Samuel G. Dailey and Francis Ruberg as character witnesses (18 Sep 1848)

STAUBACH, GREGOR, native of Herbestan, (Hesse-) Darmstadt; arrived in U. S. on 1 Jun 1842 (28 Aug 1843)

STICKELMEIER, JOHN, native of Crofscoll, Bavaria; arrived in the United States on 20 Mar 1836 (29 Aug 1843)

KRETZ (Gritz, Gratz), JOHN, native of Mortlas, Germany; arrived at New York in July 1839; owes allegiance to the King of Bavaria (11 Jan 1844); character witnesses for citizenship were Maximillian Schneider and John Hessler; in 1849 native country was listed as Austria (22 Mar 1849)

RUHL, CHRISTIAN, native of Hesse-Darmstadt; emigrated from Bremen and arrived at New York on 2 Sep 1837; declaration of intention previously filed with the Court of Common Pleas in Cincinnati; character witness for citizenship was Maximillian Schneider (20 May 1844)

LOHMILLER, ORAN, native of Oldenburg; emigrated from Bremen on 1 Jun 1837 and arrived at New York on 1 Aug 1837; character witness, Maximillian Schneider (20 May 1844)

VOGEL, HENRY, native of Hanover, about 73 years old; Bremen-New Orleans, arrived 1 May 1849 (13 Oct 1856)

HESSLER, JOHN, native of Bavaria, about 21 years old; Bremen-Baltimore, arrived 30 Sep 1837 (13 Oct 1856)

VANDERPOHL (Fanneypoll), JOHN, native of Hanover, about 65 years old; Bremen-New Orleans, arrived 30 May 1850 (3 Nov 1856)

KLOSTERKEMPER, ALEXANDER, native of Prussia, declaration of intention previously filed with the Court of Common Pleas in Hamilton County, Ohio, on 10 Jun 1852 (26 Oct 1858)

RUSCH, SIMON, native of Bavaria, about 44 years old; Havre de Grace-New York, arrived 6 Jul 1857 (6 Oct 1860)

ORTMAN (Otmer), BARNEY, native of Oldenburg, about 24 years old; Bremen-Baltimore, arrived 2 May 1857 (8 Oct 1860)

SCHROER, HENRY, native of Prussia, about 25 years old; Bremen-New Orleans, arrived 20 Oct 1860 (sic) (8 Oct 1860)

STUHRENBURGH, BARNEY, native of Hanover, about 48 years old; Bremen-Baltimore, arrived 1 Nov 1857 (1 Oct 1860)

LOT, HENRY, native of Bavaria, about 21 years old; Havre de Grace-New Orleans, arrived 15 May 1853 (9 Oct 1860)

KELLER, I. B., native of Germany (Hanover?), about 27 years old; Hanover-New York, arrived 12 Dec 1858 (5 Apr 1861)

ROLLMAN, WILLIAM, native of Prussia, about 34 years old; Bremen-New York, arrived 2 Apr 1861 (15 Mar 1862)

KOENIGKRAMER (Keanigknner), WILLIAM, native of Prussia, about 23 years old; Bremen-Baltimore, arrived 13 Oct 1856 (13 Oct 1862)

GROTE, B. H., native of Hanover, about 41 years old; Hamburg-New York, arrived 11 Nov 1863 (sic) (12 Oct 1863)

KNAPP, FRANK, native of Hanover, about 27 years old; Bremen-Baltimore, arrived 15 Oct 1863 (sic) (12 Oct 1863)

WEBER, GEORGE, native of Bavaria, about 39 years old; Hamburg-New York, arrived 6 Jul 1859 (12 Oct 1863)

MOENKEDICK, HENRY, native of Prussia, about 48 years old; Bremen-Baltimore, arrived 15 Sep 1863(?) (18 Sep 1863)

NIEHAUS (Nehus), BARNEY, native of Oldenburg, about years old; Bremen-New Orleans, arrived Jan 1860 (3 Sep 1866)

VOCKE, CASPAR, native of Prussia, about 40 years old; arrived
in U. S. on 2 dec 1867 (sic) (21 Oct 1867)

WINKER, CHRISTIAN H., native of Prussia, about 55 years old;
arrived in U. S. on 17 Jun 1864 (30 Mar 1868)

TEMAAT, WILLIAM, native of Prussia, about 48 years old; arrived
25 Sep 1865 (2 Apr 1868)

ROTTMANN, G. HENRY, native of Prussia, about 22 years old
arrived 17 Sep 1860 (7 Apr 1868)

WYNKER, HENRY L., native of Prussia, about 22 years old; arrived
15 Jun 1868 (22 Aug 1868)

WACK, JOHN, native of Bavaria, about 28 years old; embarked at
Havre de Grace, arrived in U. S. on 20 Jul 1866 (25 Aug 1868)

FOX, WENDELIN, native of Wurttemberg, about 29 years old; em-
barked at Havre de Grace, arrived in U. S. on 15 Nov 1868 (sic)
(26 Sep 1868)

MIER, CHRIS, native of Hanover, about 44 years old; embarked at
Bremen, arrived in U. S. on 25 Sep 1858 (12 Oct 1868)

MEINE, FREDERICK, native of Prussia, about 30 years old; embarked
at Bremen, arrived in U. S. on 15 Jun 1866 (2 Nov 1868)

HOEING, BARNEY, native of Westphalia, about 46 years old; embarked
at Bremen, arrived in U.S. on 19 Aug 1868 (23 Sep 1870)

FREISING, HERMAN, native of Hanover, about 42 years old; embarked
at Bremen, arrived in U. S. on 27 Sep 1869 (11 Oct 1870)

FONSETH, PETER, native of Holland, about 22 years old; embarked
at Bremen, arrived in U. S. on 20 Jul 1854 (11 Oct 1870)

SCHNEIDER, CASPAR, native of Wurttemberg, about 24 years old; em-
barked at Havro de Grace, arrived in U. S. on 27 Dec 1867
(25 Apr 1871)

MEIER, FRANZ HENRY, native of Oldenburg, about 51 years old; em-
barked at Bremen, arrived in U. S. 10 Sep 1871 (5 Oct 1872)

BOUCHARD, JOSEPH, native of France, about 72 years old; embarked
at Havre de Grace, arrived in U. S. 14 Feb 1866 (7 Oct 1872)

SCHERSCHLIGT, HENRY, native of Prussia, about 27 years old; em-
barked at Liverpool, arrived U. S. 2 Jun 1868 (22 Sep 1876)

BESSLER, GEORGE, native of Prussia, about 33 years old; embarked
at Liverpool, arrived in U. S. 18 Jul 1865 (22 Sep 1876)

HALTER, ANTON, native of France, about 32 years old; embarked at
Havre de Grace, arrived U. S. Nov. 1876 (sic) (22 Sep 1876)

(Continued next issue)

PIONEERS BURIED IN THEIR LAND

An abandoned cemetery can be a heartache and it can be an inspiration. The scene is one of desolation and is parallel to the abandonment of a precious part of our great American Heritage.

There are many abandoned cemeteries and counterparts, solitary places of the dead, old neglected graveyards scattered throughout our broad land; they represent in no uncertain terms, a waning consciousness of values. They are in out of the way places, where broken fences surround areas grown up in weeds, where once handsome monuments to the dead are now deteriorated and broken, others are tall flat slabs of stone, worthy monuments used in earliest pioneer days. They are now fallen from their bases, many of them gradually burying themselves in the ground- sinking into the earth to accompany those they were placed to commemorate.

In these abandoned burial places, where the ground is overgrown with brush and weeds that are rarely cut, are found the last resting places of the early pioneers, many of whom were prominent, others born to live and die unsung, but all of whom contributed to a way of life. Some graves are the last resting places of men who were builders of our state and nation, others by their good and worthy deeds have made a place high on the tablets of history. Still others are the last resting place of veterans of every American war including the Revolutionary War. Civic pride and basic citizen respect should prompt the beholder to remedy this sad situation, for the beholder is in the presence of his benefactors, those who fought and bled that their descendents might have the great freedoms that is America.

J. S. McKee

* * *

Henry Bales Tackett entered land in the east part of Washington township in Section 10, Township 10 North, Range 10 East. Immediately east in Salt Creek Township Enoch Tackett entered one-half of Section 11, Township 10 North, Range 10 East.

The Tackett private cemetery is on the south side of the west entrance to McCoy's Lake, south of the old railroad right-of-way in 10-10-10. In 1927 there were eight monuments standing on which inscriptions could be read. There are some field stones. The following inscriptions were copied in 1956.

George Tackett
11-19-1774 10-27-1843

Mary Tackett wife
11-3-1776 12-16-1854

Eliza Jane dau of H.B. & Dulcinea Tackett
D 5-1-1845 age 6 mo. 24 days

Alice Enfield dau of H.B. & Dulcinea Tackett
D 6-2-1851 age 1 yr. 5 mo. 14 days

Martha Lavine dau of H.B. & Dulcinea Tackett
D 8-22-1857 age 2 yrs. 7 mo. 21 days

Elzy Florence son of H.B. & Dulcinea Tackett
D 9-22-1847 age 5 mo. 22 days

Inscriptions from these abandoned cemeteries are earnestly solicited by the historians.

J.S.M.

RABBIT TOWN- The Northwest part of Clarksburg was once called Rabbit Town.

EARL CITY- The North half of Williamstown astride the Rush-Decatur County line, the Rush county part.

OPEL HILL- Three-quarters of a mile North of St. Maurice. There is a spring in the middle of the road.

MEMBERSHIP- Open to everyone having an interest in history and his heritage. The annual dues are \$1.00 each, payable in advance. The fiscal year ends Dec. 31st. Please direct all matters of membership to the Recording Secretary.



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OF DECATUR COUNTY
CLARKSBURG, INDIANA

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* * *

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BERRY'S TRACE

* *

* This trail was cut about 1808 *

* by John Berry (1777-1835). It began *

* at Napoleon, ran west to Flat Rock *

* and Blue Rivers, and thence northward *

* into Central Indiana. The Trace branch* *

* ed off the Brownstown-Brookville Road. *

* *

* Erected by the Society of Indiana *

* Pioneers 1972. *

* *

This marker located across from the Napoleon Feed Mill on U.S. 421, was dedicated Sunday afternoon, May 21st. by the Indiana Society of Pioneers. The Trace was actually a trail which is now part of the Millhousen Road northwest from Napoleon to Letts and on to Edinburg.... Mrs. Floyd Miller of Napoleon and Mrs. Wayne Einhaus of Osgood spent a year researching records to prove the exact location where John Berry started blazing this trail in southern Indiana..... Here is further evidence that all early roads led to or from Napoleon as George Cary Eggleston once stated-ed.

GERMAN IMMIGRANTS IN THE MILLHOUSEN AREA
(Compiled by Charles Hessler)

German settlers have been especially prominent in the area surrounding Millhousen. Using Father Carl Riebenthaler's A Century of Catholicity in Millhousen, Indiana (1934), the available federal censuses, and an 1867 plat map, I have been able to identify over ninety naturalized citizens in the records of Decatur and Ripley counties, who lived in the Millhousen vicinity. In the list presented on the following pages I have abstracted all pertinent information from the naturalization records of these immigrants. Clearly, this profile of Millhousen settlers is incomplete: many prominent families--e.g., M. Schneider, Voerkamp, Hardebeck, Wilmer---are entirely missing. Many immigrants either were never naturalized or were naturalized before arriving in this area. Still, a great deal can be learned from these entries, even though they are sometimes disappointing.

Many of the early immigrants were High or Middle Germans, from southern and central Germany. Later, settlers from northern Germany, Low Germans, dominated the list of immigrants. Sometimes, the early entries contain specific information about point of origin in Germany, though of course the spelling is atrocious. As the format for naturalization entries became standardized, the information given is generally less interesting.

Again, I have corrected certain spellings; alternate spellings are shown in parentheses when that seemed appropriate. The list for each county is arranged chronologically. The age given for an immigrant is as of the date of the naturalization entry unless otherwise stated; this date is found in parentheses following the abstracted information.

In general terms, the Millhousen area may be defined as Southern Marion Twp. (Decatur), western Jackson Twp (Ripley), and northeastern Columbia Twp (Jennings). In the case of Decatur Co. immigrants, naturalization entries before 1854 can be found in the Civil Order Books; starting in 1854, they were usually recorded in a separate volume. Full citizenship, so-called "second papers", are found in the order books of the Circuit Court or the common pleas court. In Ripley County the only entries on Millhousen Settlers which I have found so far were in the Civil Order Books. In addition, I made a preliminary search of Jennings County records; although I know a few Millhousen families lived in Columbia Twp., I was unable to locate any relevant naturalization entries. Incidentally, in Jennings County most naturalization records are found in the Probate Order Books, but a fire in the 1870's may have destroyed some records.

I exercised reasonable care in determining whether or not each immigrant was actually a resident of the Millhousen area. Even so, the list may contain some surprises. It should be remembered that the Catholic parish, which serves as the focal point for most German immigrants in the vicinity, originally covered a rather large area, including even Napoleon. Also, several Frenchmen and one Dutchman are included in this list: most of the French immigrants were probably

from Alsace-Lorraine which, along with Holland, is mostly German in culture.

Millhousen Immigrants in Decatur County Records

GIGOS, BLASIUS, native of Altking in the province of Bisel in France; arrived in U. S. on 14 Jun 1836 (16 May 1837)

HESSLER, CONRAD, native of Aschaffenburg; arrived in the U. S. in July 1838 (20 Apr 1839)

LINK, FRANCIS, native of Germany, born 1807; arrived at New York on 16 Sep 1837; owes allegiance to Leopold, Emperor of Germany (sic: probably means Leopold, Grand-Duke of Baden) (20 Apr 1840); full citizenship granted in 1848; character witnesses were Anthony Degant and Adam Wenner (30 Sep 1848)

KLEIN, LORENZ, native of France, about 21 years old; arrived at New Orleans in May 1840 (15 Sep 1840)

RUHL, GERHARD, native of Harpston, Germany; arrived in the United States on 1 Sep 1837 (4 Jan 1841); when granted full citizenship in 1844 birthplace was given as Harpstone, Hesse; Maximillian Schneider was a character witness (20 May 1844)

KUEMMEL (Kimmel), JOHN PETER, native of Slictien, Lower Hesse, born 1803; arrived at Baltimore on 13 June 1836 (1 May 1841)

STROOTMANN? (Shoptow), GEORGE, native of Donow, Prussia, born 1802; arrived at Baltimore on 1 Sep 1839 (12 Sep 1842); granted citizenship in 1845 with Aaron Lohmiller and Louis Meyer as witnesses (10 Nov 1845)

HESSLER, ADAM, native of Shilgrape, Bavaria; arrived in the United States in Jun 1840 (23 Aug 1843); in 1848 full citizenship was granted with Samuel G. Dailey and Francis Ruberg as character witnesses (18 Sep 1848)

STAUBACH, GREGOR, native of Herbestan, (Hesse-) Darmstadt; arrived in U. S. on 1 Jun 1842 (28 Aug 1843)

STICKELMEIER, JOHN, native of Crofscoll, Bavaria; arrived in the United States on 20 Mar 1836 (29 Aug 1843)

KRETZ (Gritz, Gratz), JOHN, native of Mortlas, Germany; arrived at New York in July 1839; owes allegiance to the King of Bavaria (11 Jan 1844); character witnesses for citizenship were Maximillian Schneider and John Hessler; in 1849 native country was listed as Austria (22 Mar 1849)

RUHL, CHRISTIAN, native of Hesse-Darmstadt; emigrated from Bremen and arrived at New York on 2 Sep 1837; declaration of intention previously filed with the Court of Common Pleas in Cincinnati; character witness for citizenship was Maximillian Schneider (20 May 1844)

LOHMILLER, ORAN, native of Oldenburg; emigrated from Bremen on 1 Jun 1837 and arrived at New York on 1 Aug 1837; character witness, Maximillian Schneider (20 May 1844)

VOGEL, HENRY, native of Hanover, about 73 years old; Bremen-New Orleans, arrived 1 May 1849 (13 Oct 1856)

HESSLER, JOHN, native of Bavaria, about 21 years old; Bremen-Baltimore, arrived 30 Sep 1837 (13 Oct 1856)

VANDERPOHL (Fanneypoll), JOHN, native of Hanover, about 65 years old; Bremen-New Orleans, arrived 30 May 1850 (3 Nov 1856)

KLOSTERKEMPER, ALEXANDER, native of Prussia, declaration of intention previously filed with the Court of Common Pleas in Hamilton County, Ohio, on 10 Jun 1852 (26 Oct 1858)

RUSCH, SIMON, native of Bavaria, about 44 years old; Havre de Grace-New York, arrived 6 Jul 1857 (6 Oct 1860)

ORTMAN (Otmer), BARNEY, native of Oldenburg, about 24 years old; Bremen-Baltimore, arrived 2 May 1857 (8 Oct 1860)

SCHROER, HENRY, native of Prussia, about 25 years old; Bremen-New Orleans, arrived 20 Oct 1860 (sic) (8 Oct 1860)

STUHRENBURGH, BARNEY, native of Hanover, about 48 years old; Bremen-Baltimore, arrived 1 Nov 1857 (1 Oct 1860)

LOT, HENRY, native of Bavaria, about 21 years old; Havre de Grace-New Orleans, arrived 15 May 1853 (9 Oct 1860)

KELLER, I. B., native of Germany (Hanover?), about 27 years old; Hanover-New York, arrived 12 Dec 1858 (5 Apr 1861)

ROLLMAN, WILLIAM, native of Prussia, about 34 years old; Bremen-New York, arrived 2 Apr 1861 (15 Mar 1862)

KOENIGKRAMER (Keanigknner), WILLIAM, native of Prussia, about 23 years old; Bremen-Baltimore, arrived 13 Oct 1856 (13 Oct 1862)

GROTE, B. H., native of Hanover, about 41 years old; Hamburg-New York, arrived 11 Nov 1863 (sic) (12 Oct 1863)

KNAPP, FRANK, native of Hanover, about 27 years old; Bremen-Baltimore, arrived 15 Oct 1863 (sic) (12 Oct 1863)

WEBER, GEORGE, native of Bavaria, about 39 years old; Hamburg-New York, arrived 6 Jul 1859 (12 Oct 1863)

MOENKEDICK, HENRY, native of Prussia, about 48 years old; Bremen-Baltimore, arrived 15 Sep 1863(?) (18 Sep 1863)

NIEHAUS (Nehus), BARNEY, native of Oldenburg, about years old; Bremen-New Orleans, arrived Jan 1860 (3 Sep 1866)

VOCKE, CASPAR, native of Prussia, about 40 years old; arrived
in U. S. on 2 dec 1867 (sic) (21 Oct 1867)

WINKER, CHRISTIAN H., native of Prussia, about 55 years old;
arrived in U. S. on 17 Jun 1864 (30 Mar 1868)

TEMAAT, WILLIAM, native of Prussia, about 48 years old; arrived
25 Sep 1865 (2 Apr 1868)

ROTTMANN, G. HENRY, native of Prussia, about 22 years old
arrived 17 Sep 1860 (7 Apr 1868)

WYNKER, HENRY L., native of Prussia, about 22 years old; arrived
15 Jun 1868 (22 Aug 1868)

WACK, JOHN, native of Bavaria, about 28 years old; embarked at
Havre de Grace, arrived in U. S. on 20 Jul 1866 (25 Aug 1868)

FOX, WENDELIN, native of Wurttemberg, about 29 years old; em-
barked at Havre de Grace, arrived in U. S. on 15 Nov 1868 (sic)
(26 Sep 1868)

MIER, CHRIS, native of Hanover, about 44 years old; embarked at
Bremen, arrived in U S. on 25 Sep 1858 (12 Oct 1868)

MEINE, FREDERICK, native of Prussia, about 30 years old; embarked
at Bremen, arrived in U. S. on 15 Jun 1866 (2 Nov 1868)

HOEING, BARNEY, native of Westphalia, about 46 years old; embarked
at Bremen, arrived in U.S. on 19 Aug 1868 (23 Sep 1870)

FREISING, HERMAN, native of Hanover, about 42 years old; embarked
at Bremen, arrived in U. S. on 27 Sep 1869 (11 Oct 1870)

FONSETH, PETER, native of Holland, about 22 years old; embarked
at Bremen, arrived in U. S. on 20 Jul 1854 (11 Oct 1870)

SCHNEIDER, CASPAR, native of Wurttemberg, about 24 years old; em-
barked at Havro de Grace, arrived in U. S. on 27 Dec 1867
(25 Apr 1871)

MEIER, FRANZ HENRY, native of Oldenburg, about 51 years old; em-
barked at Bremen, arrived in U. S. 10 Sep 1871 (5 Oct 1872)

BOUCHARD, JOSEPH, native of France, about 72 years old; embarked
at Havre de Grace, arrived in U. S. 14 Feb 1866 (7 Oct 1872)

SCHERSCHLIGT, HENRY, native of Prussia, about 27 years old; em-
barked at Liverpool, arrived U. S. 2 Jun 1868 (22 Sep 1876)

BESSLER, GEORGE, native of Prussia, about 33 years old; embarked
at Liverpool, arrived in U. S. 18 Jul 1865 (22 Sep 1876)

HALTER, ANTON, native of France, about 32 years old; embarked at
Havre de Grace, arrived U. S. Nov. 1876 (sic) (22 Sep 1876)

(Continued next issue)

PIONEERS BURIED IN THEIR LAND

An abandoned cemetery can be a heartache and it can be an inspiration. The scene is one of desolation and is parallel to the abandonment of a precious part of our great American Heritage.

There are many abandoned cemeteries and counterparts, solitary places of the dead, old neglected graveyards scattered throughout our broad land; they represent in no uncertain terms, a waning consciousness of values. They are in out of the way places, where broken fences surround areas grown up in weeds, where once handsome monuments to the dead are now deteriorated and broken, others are tall flat slabs of stone, worthy monuments used in earliest pioneer days. They are now fallen from their bases, many of them gradually burying themselves in the ground- sinking into the earth to accompany those they were placed to commemorate.

In these abandoned burial places, where the ground is overgrown with brush and weeds that are rarely cut, are found the last resting places of the early pioneers, many of whom were prominent, others born to live and die unsung, but all of whom contributed to a way of life. Some graves are the last resting places of men who were builders of our state and nation, others by their good and worthy deeds have made a place high on the tablets of history. Still others are the last resting place of veterans of every American war including the Revolutionary War. Civic pride and basic citizen respect should prompt the beholder to remedy this sad situation, for the beholder is in the presence of his benefactors, those who fought and bled that their descendents might have the great freedoms that is America.

J. S. McKee

* * *

Henry Bales Tackett entered land in the east part of Washington township in Section 10, Township 10 North, Range 10 East. Immediately east in Salt Creek Township Enoch Tackett entered one-half of Section 11, Township 10 North, Range 10 East.

The Tackett private cemetery is on the south side of the west entrance to McCoy's Lake, south of the old railroad right-of-way in 10-10-10. In 1927 there were eight monuments standing on which inscriptions could be read. There are some field stones. The following inscriptions were copied in 1956.

George Tackett

11-19-1774 10-27-1843

Mary Tackett wife

11-3-1776 12-16-1854

Eliza Jane dau of H.B. & Dulcinea Tackett

D 5-1-1845 age 6 mo. 24 days

Alice Enfield dau of H.B. & Dulcinea Tackett

D 6-2-1851 age 1 yr. 5 mo. 14 days

Martha Lavine dau of H.B. & Dulcinea Tackett

D 8-22-1857 age 2 yrs. 7 mo. 21 days

Elzy Florence son of H.B. & Dulcinea Tackett

D 9-22-1847 age 5 mo. 22 days

Inscriptions from these abandoned cemeteries are earnestly solicited by the historians.

J.S.M.

RABBIT TOWN- The Northwest part of Clarksburg was once called Rabbit Town.

EARL CITY- The North half of Williamstown astride the Rush-Decatur County line, the Rush county part.

OPEL HILL- Three-quarters of a mile North of St. Maurice. There is a spring in the middle of the road.

MEMBERSHIP- Open to everyone having an interest in history and his heritage. The annual dues are \$1.00 each, payable in advance. The fiscal year ends Dec. 31st. Please direct all matters of membership to the Recording Secretary.



THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
OF DECATUR COUNTY
GREENSBORO, N.C.

/THE BULLETIN/

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF DECATUR COUNTY

Volume 2 - No. 53

Greensburg, Indiana

October 1, 1972

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!!

Mrs. August Suding- Pontiac, Michigan
Mrs. James Long- Brandon, Iowa
Robert D. Kalb
Mrs. Robert D. Kalb -
Mrs. Clara H. Favors- Indpls.
Mrs. Sylvia H. Dunn- Lawrenceburg 722

* * *

EUREKA POULTRY YARDS

H. F. GREEN & SON

NEW POINT, INDIANA

Breeder of S. C. White & Brown
Leghorns, American Dominiques,
Silver Spangled Hamburgs.

THE BEST VARIETIES KNOWN!

Eggs For Sale- \$1.50 for 15 each
Additional Settings- \$1.00

Correspondence Solicited and
Satisfaction Guaranteed.
Visitors Welcome!

* * *

THE SOCIETY'S OFFICERS 1972

President----- Dalo G. Myers
1st. V.P.----- Van P. Batterton
2nd. V. P. ----- Raymond Carr
Corresponding Secty.-----
Mrs. Leonilla Lauderdale
710 N. Franklin St.
Greensburg, Indiana 47240
Recording Secty.-----
Mrs. Dorothy D. Dolos
303 E. Central Ave.
Greensburg, Indiana
47240
Treasurer----- Miss Alpha Thackery

OCCASION: Fall Field Trip

SPEAKER: Mr. Frank C. Beall

DATE: Sunday afternoon, October
15th., 1972 at 2:00 P.M.

PLACE: Springhill Presbyterian
Church

Mr. Beall is a resident of Clarksburg
and comes from an old Fugit Township
family. He is widely known and is well
versed in the history of the community.
Following the meeting at Springhill
Mr. Beall will conduct a five-mile
tour of old land-mark homes in that
area. The homes will not be open.

BRING AS MANY GUESTS AS YOU LIKE!

EVERYBODY IS WELCOME!!

* * *

"For we know that when a nation goes
down and never comes back, when a
society or a civilization perishes,
one condition can always be found.
They forgot from whence they came.
They lost sight of what brought
them along."- CARL SANDBURG.

* * *

MEMBERSHIP- Open to everyone having an
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in advance. The fiscal year ends
Dec. 31st. Please direct all matters
of membership to the Recording Secretary.

FURNITURE MAKERS OF DECATUR COUNTY, INDIANA
1793 -- 1850

- 83 BARGER, DAVID. Cabinetmaker. Born c. 1811, Virginia; w. 1850, Milford, Decatur Co. (C)
- 133 BELMONT, JAMES B. Cabinetmaker. Born c. 1810, London, England; w. -1844-1850-, Washington Township, Decatur Co. In 1844 was a member of the firm of Belmont & Ricketts. In 1850 there were four men working in his shop, making 300 pieces of furniture valued at \$2,000. (C, MC, Harding).
- 134 BELMONT & RICKETTS Cabinetmakers. James B. Belmont and ---- Ricketts; w. -1844-, Washington Twp., Decatur Co. (Harding)
- 252 BURK, JOHN, Cabinetmaker. Born c. 1824, Kentucky; w. 1850, Greensburg, Decatur Co. (C).
- 259 BURROWS, WILLIAM F. Chairmaker. Born c. 1805, Virginia; w. 1850, St. Omer, Decatur Co. (C)
- 388 COOK, HENRY. Cabinetmaker. Born c. 1822, France; w. 1850, Milford, Decatur Co. (C)
- 414 CRAIGMILES, A. Cabinetmaker. Born c. 1798, Kentucky; w. 1850, Clinton Twp., Decatur Co. (C)
- 421 CRESS, HENRY. Cabinetmaker. Born c. 1827, Indiana; w. 1850, Clay Twp., Decatur Co. (C)
- 430 CROWDER, E.S. Cabinetmaker. Born c. 1822, Kentucky; w. 1850 Decatur Co. Two men worked in the shop, which produced 150 pieces of cabinet ware valued at \$600 in 1850. (C, MC)
- 519 DILKS, ELIJAH. Chairmaker. Born c. 1827, Indiana; w. 1850, Salt Creek Twp., Decatur Co. (C)
- 520 DILKS, HENRY. Chairmaker. Born c. 1833, Indiana; w. 1850, Salt Creek Twp., Decatur Co. Lived with Joseph Dilks, chairmaker. (C)
- 521 DILKS, JOSEPH. Chairmaker. Born c. 1805, Pennsylvania; w. 1850, Salt Creek Twp., Decatur Co. In same household, Henry Dilks and Leonard Dilks, chairmakers. (C)
- 522 DILKS, LEONARD Chairmaker. Born c. 1834, Indiana; w. 1850, Salt Creek Twp., Decatur Co. Lived with Joseph Dilks, chairmaker. (C)
- 545 DOUGLAS, LEANDER F. Chairmaker. Born c. 1805, Kentucky; w. 1850, Clay Twp., Decatur Co. (C)

ABBREVIATIONS USED IN CHECK LIST

AGI	Indiana Federation of Art Clubs, ART GUIDE TO INDIANA (BULLETIN OF THE EXTENSION DIVISION, INDIANA UNIVERSITY, BLOOMINGTON, 1931).
adv.	advertised, advertisement
c.	circa (about)
C	census (population)
CD	city directory
CH	county history; number following refers to numbered bibliography, pp. 230-33
Co.	county
est.	established
FWP	Federal Writers' Program, Indiana, a Guide to the Hoosier State (New York: Oxford University Press, 1941).
MC	Manufacturers' or Industrial Census, 1820, 1850
q.v.	which see
TH	town (or city) history; number following refers to numbered bibliography, pp. 230-33
Twp.	township
w.	working
-1825	1825 and before, etc.
1825-	1825 and after, etc.

- 674 GAGEBY, JAMES. Cabinetmaker. Born c. 1805, Pennsylvania; w. -1850 to late 1880s, Decatur Co. In 1850 there were three men working in his shop, they produced that year "282" pieces Furniture &c., valued at \$1,500. In 1852 Gageby was a member of the firm of Gageby and Siling, who were using steam-powered machinery to produce furniture; by 1857, fifteen men were working in this establishment, which was destroyed by fire in the late 1880s. (C, MC, Harding)
- 675 GAGEBY, JAMES A. Cabinetmaker. Born c. 1834, Indiana; w. 1850, Greensburg, Decatur Co. (C)
- 1748 SILING, MILTON. Cabinetmaker. Born c. 1829, Ohio; w. 1850, Whitley Co. Lived with Samuel Rufer, cabinetmaker. (C)
- 1749 SILING, TILGHMAN I. Cabinetmaker. Born c. 1826, Maryland; w. 1850, Whitley Co. Lived with Samuel Rufer, cabinetmaker. (C)
- 745 GREEN, CHARLES. Chairmaker. Born c. 1834, Ohio; w. 1850, Greensburg, Decatur Co. Lived with Eli Green, chairmaker. (C)
- 746 GREEN, ELI. Chairmaker. Born c. 1802, New Jersey; w. 1850 Greensburg, Decatur Co. Three men worked in his shop (probably William and Charles Green were the other two, for they lived in his household); in 1850 they produced 1,500 chairs valued at \$1,500. (C, MC)
- 751 GREEN, WILLIAM. Chairmaker. Born c. 1828, Ohio; w. 1850, Greensburg Decatur Co. Lived with Eli Green, chairmaker, q.v. (C)
- 799 HANN, JAMES. Cabinetmaker. Born c. 1834, Indiana; w. 1850, Greensburg, Decatur Co. (C)
- 1044 KINCAID, JOHN. Cabinetmaker. Born c. 1826, Kentucky; w. 1850, Fugit Twp., Decatur Co. (C)
- 1170 LITTLE, LEVI M. Cabinetmaker. Born c. 1815, Indiana; w. 1850, St. Omer, Decatur Co. In 1850 he produced \$1,000 worth of cabinetware. (C, MC)
- 1210 McKINNY, WILLIAM. Cabinetmaker. Born c. 1810, Ohio; w. 1850, Fugit Twp., Decatur Co. (C)
- 1211 McKINNY, WILLIAM. Cabinetmaker. Born c. 1827, Indiana; w. 1850, Greensburg, Decatur Co. (C)
- 1281 MICHAEL, EDWARD. Cabinetmaker. Born c. 1819, Indiana; w. 1850, Clay Township, Decatur Co. (C)

- 1299 MILLER, JAMES. Cabinetmaker. Born c. 1769, Pennsylvania; w. 1850, Fugit Twp., Decatur Co. (C)
- 1341 MOORE, SAMUEL. Chairmaker. Born c. 1797, Pennsylvania; w. 1850, Fugit Twp., Decatur Co. Edward Wallace, chairmaker, worked with him; their raw materials included timber and paint. In 1850 they made 500 chairs which sold for \$1 each. (C, HC)
- 1468 PARMORE, THOMAS Chairmaker. Born c. 1784, Pennsylvania; w. 1850, Salt Creek Twp., Decatur Co. (C)
- 1510 PENNINGTON, JOEL Cabinetmaker. Born c. 1834, Ohio; w. 1850, Westport Decatur Co. Lived with Joshua Pennington, cabinetmaker. (C)
- 1511 PENNINGTON, JOHN. Cabinetmaker. Born c. 1828; Ohio; w. 1850, Westport, Decatur Co. Lived with Joshua Pennington, cabinetmaker. (C)
- 1512 PENNINGTON, JOSHUA Cabinetmaker. Born c. 1804, Pennsylvania; w. 1850, Westport, Decatur Co. In same household, cabinetmakers John and Noel Pennington. (C)
- 1513 PENNINGTON, LORENZO Chairmaker. Born c. 1827; Ohio; w. 1850, Westport, Decatur Co. (C)
- 1525 PHILLIPS, JOHN. Chairmaker. Born c. 1779, Virginia; w. 1850, Adams Twp., Decatur Co. (C)
- 1630 RILEY, ZACHARIAH Cabinetmaker. Born c. 1829, Ohio; w. 1850, Clinton Twp., Decatur Co. (C)
- 1758 SLOAN, MILTON, Cabinetmaker. Born c. 1806, Kentucky; w. 1850, Jackson Twp., Decatur Co. (C)
- 1963 UNDERWOOD, JOSHUA D. Cabinetmaker. Born c. 1819, Indiana; w. 1850 Westport, Decatur Co. (C)
- 2000 WALLACE, EDWARD Chairmaker. Born c. 1833, Ohio; w. 1850, Fugit Twp., Decatur Co. Lived with Samuel Moore, chairmaker, q.v. (C)
- 2038 WELSH, JOHN Cabinetmaker. Born c. 1815, Ohio; w. 1850, Greensburg, Decatur Co. (C)
- 2094 WILSEN, I. B. (or G) Cabinetmaker. Born c. 1818, Kentucky, w. 1850, Milford, Decatur Co. (C)

We are indebted to Betty Lawson Walters for the list above. Her compilation- "FURNITURE MAKERS OF INDIANA 1793-1850" and published by the Indiana Historical Society will be a lasting contribution to our early history. She gives Lewis A. Harding's "HISTORY OF DECATUR COUNTY" as a good source and names Mr. and Mrs. Robert Montgomery in her acknowledgments- ed.

Dear Editor:

When a child (I was born in 1904) I remember standing on the southwest corner of the public square in Greensburg and looking at the trees on the Court House tower. I counted three. I was disappointed when all but one was removed.

My mother, Esther (Shafer) Boring told us children that they were maple trees. Her uncle, Leander Meredith, who built the two story brick house in the south edge of Sardinia on the east side of State Road 3 had two maple trees grown from seeds from the tree on the Court House tower. Once when he went on business to the Court House some maple seeds were on the counter. A man said they were from the tower tree and gave some to him. Mr. Meredith took them in good faith, planted them and grew two large trees on either side of his front walk. Before my mother passed away (1938) her cousin, Rose (Meredith) Turley and her husband were here visiting and all of us went to Sardinia to see her home place. The house looked much as it used to look, but the two maple trees had been cut down. Their stumps were about two feet in diameter.

In the summer of 1947 when I was at Indiana University, a classmate said one morning, "Did you know Greensburg had a windstorm that blew down many trees, even the tree on the Court House tower?" I looked at him incredulously and replied, "If the Tree on the Court House Tower blow down, they will let another one grow. There will always be a 'Tree on the Court House Tower' in Greensburg". (When I read the newspaper it said "but the Tree on the Tower" still stands.)

My father had told me the "Secret of the Tree on the Court House Tower". I copy the exact words that he wrote and left in his Bible:-

"In the summer of 1947 (when I was 77) while sitting on a bench in court house yard (S. of C.H.) talking to Marion McLaughlin (age 81) told me that Joe Doush, son of Jacob Doush who kept the three story boarding & lodging house in Harris City, had in 1856 worked on the court house as a common laborer, while it was under construction, and when they got above the square part of the tower, they filled in with the waste, such as gravel, rocks and soil in the sloping part of the tower, tons of it. Instead of concrete or solid masonry (as most people are under that impression.) Consequently the filling held moisture when it rained and seeped through the cracks, giving plenty of nourishment to the growing tree. I never give the secret away for it is known as the "Eighth Wonder of the World".

At this date Oct. 9, Mr. McLaughlin who had a fall in his apartment, where he lived alone, has been taken to Memorial Hospital and is very weak.

Cornelius M. Boring Oct. 9, 1946

Should the Secret be told?

Yours truly,

Mary E. Boring.

ELECTION CAMPAIGNS

(A timely essay written years ago by the late Mrs. Floy Batterton)

Someone once said "Every four years America Examines herself and her leaders and the country is born anew. This is the miracle of Democracy." Today we are in the midst of such an event. Our ears are filled with the fury of political campaigning, preparing the voters for the coming election. Weeks ago, the candidates were chosen in conventions, and these conventions were truly the curtain-raisers for the big show which follows. They are not unlike a circus with bands playing, banners flying, and mad antics of all kinds. There is nothing just like them in the whole wide world! American people love the excitement and they whip up the enthusiasm needed to launch a campaign. Even though there is much nonsense, conventions are historic occasions, and out of all the whoop-a-la emerge the men who hope to become president. Bob Hope said, "Wasn't it thrilling the way they chose the vice-president? They just picked him up by the ears!"

After the convention frolic is over, the fat is in the fire and then begins the struggle "to the death". Each party tries to persuade the people that its candidate is wise and honest and concerned about their welfare. The candidates promise this and that and insist that the fate of the country depends upon which is elected. The emotions of the people are thoroughly aroused by rallies and speakings, by name-calling, and personal attacks of all sorts. The voter boils and stews, and argues and argues until he reaches his decision.

Campaigns have been conducted in many ways, handshaking, back-slapping, baby kissing, and quietly sitting on the front porch. In 1896, William McKinley received delegation after delegation at his home and spoke to them from his front porch on the issues of the day, while the people wrecked his fence and almost tore down the porch. In the meantime, his opponent, William J. Bryan, traveled all over the country by train making more than 600 speeches.

There was a time when it was considered beneath a presidential candidate's dignity to travel about the country but today he goes by devious means, far and wide, and even the children go along. During the first 14 years of our country's life, campaigns were of a quiet nature, but there was always plenty of scheming and manouvering going on behind the scenes.

When Washington became president, there was unity among all the people. Two factions had existed in the colonial period, but they cheerfully united to honor their beloved Revolutionary hero. Washington and his colleagues, Hamilton and Madison, hoped that government could be carried on by one party, but that certainly was only wishful thinking and didn't last long. In forming a new government, many domestic issues arose. Since we have always been an argumentative people, there were soon two sides to every question. Dissension developed and even Washington became the object of criticism. People called him a monarchist. They didn't like Martha's aristocratic receptions nor the Washington way of life. John Adams called George "an old mutton head" and Thomas Paine said, "undoubtedly he was a hypocrite". So personal abuse entered politics and became a part of it. But, as President Truman once said, "If you can't stand the heat, you had better get out of the kitchen."

John Adams, leader of the Federalists, believed the country should be ruled by the rich, the well-born, and the capable. But Thomas Jefferson (so he said) despised the "aristocracy of wealth" and favored rule by the common people,

although he, himself, was an aristocrat to his finger tips with a great plantation, 200 slaves, and the grandest house in Virginia.

Little by little, his party grew, and the people participated more and more in government and politics and in choosing the President. For some time there was a busy period of internal development and political peace and quiet, until Andrew Jackson started his brilliant career. He was a lover of the "struggling masses" and encouraged freedom for all in campaigning. He first promoted the idea of the convention, and then introduced the impressive torchlight processions which were popular for long, long years. One of my earliest memories is watching a torchlight procession from my grandmother's window. While I held tight to her skirt, in fear and trembling, she held her kerosene lamp showing the candidate's picture, and the men in the street, with blazing torches, cheered wildly.

Jackson's campaign was marked by slanderous attacks and personal abuse, but he was dearly loved by the people and his admirers followed in a mob to the White House after his inauguration. They stood with muddy feet on the elegant chairs of the East Room to catch a glimpse of him, and had to be lured out to the lawn by tubs of punch.

Many of our campaigns have been interesting but some are outstanding. The type we have known so well in the later years, the great mass meetings, the song singing, the parades and wild enthusiasm, did not blossom out entirely until 1840 when William Henry Harrison ran against Van Buren. It was perhaps the most colorful of all and was known as the "Log Cabin Campaign". For some reason Mr. Harrison's enemies pictured him as a backwoods rustic who lived in a log cabin and drank hard cider. But this seemed to strike the fancy of the people. They liked the idea of a plain honest man unlike his opponent, the extravagant "high-toned" Van Buren. So they wore or carried emblems of log cabins or a barrel of cider. The truth of the matter was that Harrison, a military hero, came from a home of luxury and lived in a house of 22 rooms.

The custom of using slogans and funny little quips became popular then and is still enjoyed. President Johnson is said to have used "Let us continue". Mr. Harrison's slogan was "Keep the ball rolling" and a group of young Whigs did roll a large paper ball from Kentucky to the convention in Baltimore. Since Van Buren was seeking a second term, the Whigs dearly loved to sing, "Van, Van, the worn out man". Mr. Van Buren was a native of Kinderhook, N.Y. and his friends formed a club called the Old Kinderhook. Their rallying cry was "O. K. - What's good, was o.k. then and it still is."

There were no special issues at this time and the campaign became just a jubilant love feast. Mr. Harrison was elected by a great majority. His wife was preparing reluctantly to join him one month later when news came of his death. "Oh", she said, "if only his friends had left him happy and contented where he was!" For the first time, a president died in office.

In 1884 when Grover Cleveland ran against James Blaine, the campaign gave promise of being a tame affair. The Republicans had been in power since the Civil War and would probably continue. But pretty soon the mud began to fly. The Democrats accused Blaine of grafting and other misdemeanors. They chose as a marching song, "Blaine, Blaine, James G. Blaine, the Continental liar from the state of Maine." Then suddenly a Buffalo paper published a "terrible tale". It revealed that Cleveland was the father of an illegitimate child. When he

heard the story, he admitted it was true, saying only, "Whatever you tell, let it be the truth." Excitement ran high over all the country. Ministers preached sermons about sin and some even prayed in the streets. The Republicans really had something this time, and they sang lustily, "Ma, Ma, Where's my Pa? Gone to the White House? Ha, Ha, Ha." But, strange to say, in spite of the wild oats he had sown, Cleveland went to the White House and history called him one of our good presidents but it also refers to the campaign as the dirtiest on record.

Lincoln's campaign, while of untold importance, was most quiet. It was a sad and anxious time. A nation was crumbling and war threatened. Mr. Lincoln refused to have a part in the campaign. He stayed in Springfield all the time and never made one political speech, trying not to antagonize the South. His supporters formed many groups called the "wide-a-wakes" which marched soberly through the streets wearing long black capes and military caps. His re-election was inspired by the slogan "Don't swap horses in the middle of the stream." Harper's Weekly, after the election, carried a clever cartoon saying, "Long Abraham - a little longer."

War has not been our only national tragedy. After a long prosperous period known as the Coolidge Boom, the Great Depression settled upon us. Since Mr. Coolidge "did not choose to run" Herbert Hoover carried the Republican banner and was opposed by Al Smith. Smith was the first Catholic to seek the presidency and religion was an all-important issue. During his acceptance speech, Hoover made some unfortunate statements which were not forgotten. He foretold "a vanishing poorhouse" and "complete triumph over poverty". In addition, he promised "a chicken in every pot" and "a car in every garage". But after just a few short months there came the terrific stock market crash and people in their despair blamed Mr. Hoover for their plight.

Naturally a change was demanded for the next campaign, and Franklin D. Roosevelt came flying in to the tune of "Happy Days Are Here Again." He pledged a New Deal for the American people and promised "to break down the foolish traditions of the past". He did exactly that for 12 years, one month and 8 days and died a worn and weary man. He was the first president to serve more than two terms.

His vice-president, Harry Truman, completed the remainder of Roosevelt's term and then sought office on his own. No one really wanted him to run but when a banner appeared at the convention saying, "I'm just wild about Harry", he was given an ovation and was nominated. With grim determination he set out on a prolonged whistle-stop tour and thoroughly covered the country. Albin Barkley, a close friend, advised him to "How 'em down, Harry" to which he replied, "I'm going to give 'em Hell." People still call it the "Give 'em Hell" campaign.

In recent years television has brought a tremendous change in campaigning. To see and hear a man makes it possible to evaluate him and to make decisions concerning him. It has truly revolutionized political life as this story illustrates. The people of Maine have always been strongly Republican but suddenly many commenced voting Democratic. "How does this happen?" an old man was asked. "Well," he said, "we can't help it with this television. Our children were brought up to believe that Democrats had horns. Now they can see that they don't have horns at all!"

This is an age of appearances when the "wrapping of a package may be more important than the contents." Personality and charm are now important factors

of a president's eligibility and the easy smile, the pleasant voice, and the gracious and forceful manner are very valuable assets.

General Eisenhower had great charm plus the glamour of world fame and being a war hero. President Kennedy had the charm of youth, sophistication, and idealistic appeal. "Ask not what your country can do for you -- ask what you can do for your country" will long live in the minds of his countrymen. Women voters respond especially to a man's personality and character. Men are more concerned with policies and ideas.

Strange to say, there are always plenty of men wanting to run for president. One of Roosevelt's friends said he was appalled by so many men "running a presidential fever." "Ah, but what a flattering disease", retorted F.D.R. But all of them are more than satisfied with the experience and eager to lay down its responsibilities. John Quincy Adams said they were the four most miserable years of his life. Jefferson called it "The splendid Misery" and mock and kindly Taft said "I'll be damned if I'm not tired of this". Teddy Roosevelt, alone, said again and again, he had thoroughly enjoyed it.

Politics is a "brutal business". We deplore its chicanery, its duplicity, its deals, and smoke-filled rooms. We know, like Al Smith said "that slice it any way you want, it is still a lot of baloney". But good government demands good leadership and it is the duty and privilege of each member of a Democracy to choose with care that leader. A recent editorial says, "We choose between men but the important thing to remember is which man represents most nearly the way we want our country to go. That is the big question."

When Lincoln approached the platform for his inaugural address, his famous rival, Stephen A. Douglas, courteously took Mr. Lincoln's hat and then whispered to a friend, "If I can't be President, at least I can hold his hat!"

On the morning after the battle is over--- no matter who wins--- we have faith that our country will be strong enough and durable enough to survive.

THE PATRICK CEMETERY

The Patrick cemetery is located on the William W. Parker farm a few rods north and east of the intersection of road 600 west and 450 south in Decatur Co. Indiana.

On September 30, 1833 George Patrick received title by certificate of entry from the United States Government, for the west half of north east quarter of section 36 in township 10 north, Range 8 east containing 80 acres.

Six years later, in 1839, his first wife Sarah Patrick died and was buried on the brow of a hill on this land. This is the earliest date I could find on any of the stones in the cemetery. There are as in all early buried plots unmarked graves, and some marked by field stones.

From this beginning, neighbors and friend began to use this cemetery and it expended rapidly, in 1853, the cemetery was organized, when George and Ann Patrick conveyed and warranted to James Blackwell, Job Shirt and John Patrick, trustees of the Dry Fork Baptist Church of Decatur County, to be used by said church and neighborhood as a burial ground. Again in 1865 the trustees of Dry Fork Baptist Church purchased additional land to expend the cemetery. There never was any church built at this cemetery.

Among the families using cemetery, some with as many as 10 or 12 graves, some marked and some unmarked are the Patrick, Snooks, Garrisons, Hoggs, Black, Cappers, Browns, McCrackens, Allens, Elliots and many others.

As the more direct decedents of these people died or moved away, the cemetery became neglected and uncared for and grow up in bushes and trees. At one time vandals damaged a number of the stones. Most which have never been reset.

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THE DRY FORK BAPTIST CHURCH

The Dry Fork Baptist Church was organized in February, 1835 at the home of Enoch Garrison with the following members: John Patrick and wife, Enoch and Margaret Garrison, Elizabeth Patrick, Sarah Patrick, Susan Morgan, Rebecca Black and Elanor Tazerwell.

For the first six years services were held in private homes then services were held in a crude log cabin.

In 1852 a church was built one-half mile south of Forest Hill. This church has been gone for years.

Among the pastors were George Patrick, A Leach, John Vawter, James Blankenship, William Moore, G. W. Pavy, Evan Shead, Absalen Pavy, James Pavy, Joab Stout, B. Denham, Hugh McCalip, W. E. Spears, F. H. Huckelberry, John W. Potter, and Albert Carter. Parsons who are named prominently in the histories of early Decatur county Baptist Churches. By 1880 the Church had 400 additions.

The Dry Fork Church was the mother church of Westport and Mt. Aerie, at Letts.

We can only conjecture, as to why the church was not built at the site of the cemetery, as there was ample room. Possibly the proximity of the Liberty Baptist Church, or more plausible, the Forest Hill location was a more central location for the members.- W. Parker.

THE BULLETIN

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF DECATUR COUNTY

Volume 2 - No. 54

Greensburg, Indiana

December 1, 1972

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Mrs. DeForrest Bowman-Indpls.
Michael Moxley Diven - Austin, Texas
Donald Polston
Mrs. Connie Polston 726

OCCASION: Fourteenth Annual Dinner
Meeting and Election of
Officers.

SPEAKER: Hon. Lee H. Hamilton

DATE: Saturday night, December
9th, 1972 at 6:00 P.M.

PLACE: Fellowship Hall,
Presbyterian Church,
N.E. Corner Public Square,
Greensburg, Indiana.
Entrance on Washington St.

* * *

IN MEMORIAM - Our former president
Forrest McCardle, passed away on
Sept. 9, 1972. A native of Cincinnati, he grew up in Greensburg which
he knew and loved so well. A
brilliant conversationalist, it was
a pleasure to converse with him.
Serving as president of the Historical
Society for three consecutive
years in addition to his other civic
interests, he was always the leader
and able to get whatever he undertook
off the ground. Capable, tireless
and above everything else, congenial-
he was a man you were glad to know.-ed

Mr. Hamilton born in Florida and reared
in Evansville, is a Hoosier by adoption.
A graduate of Evansville Central H.S.
in 1948, he received the coveted Arthur
L. Trester Award in basketball. Going
on to DePauw University he graduated
there in 1952 cum laude, receiving the
Walker Cup as the school's outstanding
Senior. He attended Goethe University,
Frankfurt, Germany on a scholarship
1952-1953 and graduated from Indiana
University Law School in 1956. First
elected to Congress in 1964 defeating
the long-time Republican incumbent,
he has continued to serve our own 9th.
district with distinction. He was
reelected to his fifth term in November
by an overwhelming majority. Congress-
man Hamilton is married, has three
children and lives in Columbus.

* * *

The committee for the display
invites members to bring items
of interest that are one-hundred
years old. They further suggest
that a card be attached with the
name of the owner and other
pertinent information.

EVERYBODY IS WELCOME!!

* * *

This year's dinner will be a SMORGASBUFFET- take your choice and all
that you can eat for \$2.50 payable at the door. Dinner by reservation
only and must be made by December 6th. If you have not already been
contacted, please call Mrs. Dale G. Myers at 663-4370

"THOSE WERE THE DAYS"-----

A few reminiscences of Greensburg, I bring to you, as I saw them as a small boy on North Franklin Street, during the early years of this century. Some will recall with a special nostalgia some of the conditions, events, and stories of the "good old days" of the horse and buggy, coal oil lights, and outdoor toilets. We knew no better, so did not mind. Thanks are due to people like Elwood Haynes, Henry Ford, Thomas Edison, Alexander Bell, John Deere, Cyrus McCormick, and many others who thought "there must be a better way" and did something about it. As I look back, the period of this century up to World War I included some of the best years of my life. Everyone was at peace with himself, everyone who wanted work could find a job, neighbors had time to visit neighbors, or cool off on the front porch after the day's work. Now, if you call upon your friend or neighbor, you probably would be interfering with a favorite TV or radio program.

Greensburg was a quiet, peaceful little city of 5000 population, more or less. A large number were retired farmers. A farm family might, over their productive years, earn their 80 acres or more, sell it, and with the interest it would earn plus the cheap food and by being reasonably frugal, live very comfortably. A great number were also Civil War pensioners--\$90 every three months. Every lot had a house, a barn for a horse, sometimes a cow, a shed for the buggy or surrory, a hon house and a garden.

My parents were farm people who never lost their love for the land. We had a horse "Old Billie" who lived to a ripe old age of 28 years and was a very familiar figure on the streets of Greensburg. We, as many others, owned a cow. In the summer the cows were pastured on the outskirts and you either went out to pail them or brought them into town. Mr. Ford Gilchrist, who resided at Franklin and Walnut, was the only man I knew who could lead a cow while riding a bicycle in the rain and holding an umbrella over his head. We kept our cow for our own milk, cream and butter and sold the surplus. For years we furnished milk to Mr. and Mrs. C.C. Lowe, parents of Walter Lowe, Mr. Charles Woodward, the banker, and Dr. D. W. Weaver.

There was no organized recreation, so we made our own. Of course baseball came first, but we also had marbles, run-sheep-run, rock-on-davy, etc., sometimes playing under the street lights at night. There were many other body-building activities, although not so popular, as mowing the yard (the mower was always dull), cleaning the stable, spading the garden, picking the fruit and botties, and helping with the washing (we finally had a washer run with a crank.) One of the bi-annual tasks was taking up the carpets, hanging them over the clothes-line, and beating out the dust.

I suspect it is the little events which are remembered with the greatest satisfaction, as the stone jar of "New Orleans" molasses cookies that Aunt Nancy Meek kept on the cellar steps or the corn pone Mrs. Chester Edkins made that was so good. Both of these fine ladies were very generous to small boys. There was the time I fell into the slop bucket for which, to add to my humiliation, I had a very gleeful audience!

Everyone who wanted a job could get one, though the pay was very small according to today's wages. Bob Sanders (who lived in Gainesville, north of First St. along Lincoln, named for the Gaines buggy and carriage factory, the brick building now used by the city sanitary department) would pass our house every morning with his dinner pail on his way to the roundhouse, work

on the section all day, trudge by in the evening, at least a four-mile walk, and bring home another dollar. "Another day, another dollar!"

In addition to Gainesville, there was a section of town, north of First and west of the Michigan Division, called Oklahoma, why, I never knew. The Highland addition, west of Mill street (now West street) was opened up in this era. The lots were sold at auction and were laid out about 27 feet in width so a buyer would have to purchase two or three lots to have ample building space. For some reason this addition did not go over too well and only in the last few years has it begun to expand. Irish town lay mostly south of the roundhouse along Monfort and Ireland streets. The name is self-explanatory. William applegate built a row of identical houses, on East Central Ave., which are still standing.

George Littell one of the most colorful persons who ever lived in Greensburg, owned a great number of houses in the east end of town, mostly sub-standard. The Littells were one of the older families of Greensburg. They operated brick yards which furnished brick for most of the older buildings and sidewalks. Originally the citizen walked in the mud and dust. With abundant lumber, board walks began to appear.

Long stringers were laid down with shorter planks laid crosswise. Someone decided that brick would be more lasting so soon the town was criss-crossed with brick walks. These were laid in a diagonal pattern with a base of sand. They were a great improvement, but the weeds and grass were hard to control. Stone slabs, called flagging, were used around the square and in front of some houses. With the perfection of cement, a movement was started to replace the brick walks with cement sidewalks.

George lived on East Main street and owned ground south of the railroad. This was used for the circus lot. At least one major show made our town each summer. The boys and many adults rose early to watch the unloading in the railroad yards by the freight house and hurried out to the grounds to watch the erection of the tents. Then the greatest spectacle of all was the mammoth street parade with all its pageantry and glitter! Horses and buggies were parked hub to hub around the hitchrack and side streets and the livery stables were running over. It was indeed a memorable day in Greensburg.

These grounds were also the home of the Greensburg Reds, sponsored mainly by Creath Loyd. The Reds were always one of the outstanding semi-pro teams in this part of Indiana. Later, a team sponsored by the Eagles Lodge was fielded and another by the Ironclad Clothing Co. called the Ironclads. Another annual event was the appearance of Vogel's minstrels of which Jimmie Withers, a local boy, was a member. Also annually was the presentation of Loyd's minstrels with local talent including Creath Loyd, Jimmie Withers, Louis McHenry, "Hash" Morris, the Seward boys, Elmer and Muggler, Bricks McKay, as interlocutor, and many others equally talented. A few years ago our local paper published a feature story by Kenneth Rinker on this group. They could hardly be called amateurs.

The annual County Fair was held on the fairgrounds, the present site of the new Greensburg Community high school, with horse racing, the usual displays, horse-drawn farm machinery, livestock, cakes and home-canned goods, etc. Horse-drawn hacks, with seats along the sides, left the DeArmond Hotel corner every ten minutes with Al Waybright, William Brazelton, and

Alex Trindle making their pitch for passengers. "One more and we'll go right out!" The annual Chautauqua was held in a tent in Bracken's Woods which was north across Central Ave. from the old high school building. The tent was erected approximately on the site of the Dr. Kuhn home. For those who might not know what this is, a Chautauqua is an educational or entertaining program conducted by traveling lecturers, musicians, and entertainers traveling from town to town. Among some of the entertainers I remember were William Jennings Bryan, Sousa and his famous band and a group of Swiss bell ringers. So you see when we include a street fair which lasted all week, we had a pretty busy summer and all of it right at home.

During this era the Sanitary Department was the "Slopman". George Littell had the contract for collecting the garbage. He sent a man up and down the alleys with a team and a wagon with a metal tank. A cow bell attached to the end of the tongue signaled the arrival and departure. This collection was processed through George's hogs and resold to the people. So recycling is really nothing new! At one time I delivered some thin sows which my father sold to George. Two of these got out on the railroad and were killed. The value of these unfortunate hogs increased real fast. Mr. Littell had a team of white oxen, "Buck and Bright", which were much in demand by the young folks for hay rides. Slow- but who was in a hurry? I have a picture of a group of young folks from the Methodist Church taking one of these rides. Grace Murphy is the only one I recognize.

We had two school buildings. The West Building of eight grades and the high school and the East building for the first six grades only. The alley between Broadway and Franklin was the dividing line, so I spent my first six years at the East school and then finished at the West, graduating with the class of 1914. This was the last class graduating from this school. A high board fence divided the playground. At the East school the boys played on the east and the girls on the west. Woe to boy or girl who was caught on the wrong side! An outdoor toilet was on each side. When the West school was torn down several years ago, we salvaged several loads of stone and lumber which we used in building our present home. I especially prize two large step stones from the east entrance. We have used them for the hearth and mantle for the fireplace in our home. They are worn smooth by many a footstep, mine included.

A most fearful sound, especially at night, was the ringing of the fire alarm. A clapper was attached to the bell in the courthouse tower and was operated from the ground by jerk of a wire. It has not been used for years. This alarm could be heard all over town and alerted the people to the danger. Soon, Fred Boyle, our neighbor who was one of the firemen, would come running by and if at night, people along the street would ask the location of the fire. The fires which destroyed the Greensburg Carriage Factory and the Doles Spoke and Rim Factory are two that I remember. Neither was rebuilt. For the boys, the carriage factory fire eliminated the clipping from the ends of tire bolts - prized for sling-shot ammunition. We never realized how lethal they were.

For a water supply, large cisterns were dug. I remember one on each corner of the square and one at Franklin and Walnut. A bright red steam pumper, highly embellished with brass, was housed in the firehouse and used to pump water from the cisterns. With the installation of a piped pressure system all over town, the steam pumper was retired, and a hose

wagon was pulled by a black team and driven for many years by "Billie" Withers. A ladder wagon, pulled by a white team and driven by Link Boeson, was purchased. These teams were a common sight on the streets of Greensburg as they were exercised every good day. Another familiar figure on the streets was Mose Wallace. We were using carbon lights, the carbon of which had to be clipped or replaced when they got too short. Mose had the job of replacing these carbons. I can see him now carrying his leather pouch of new carbons and a glass-footed stool to insulate him from the ground.

Before I close, let us not forget the ice man. The Meek Ice Co. sent horse-drawn wagons over town, replenishing the ice boxes- about all the refrigeration we had. The ice man was sort of a modern "Pied Piper" as a group of children was always following him, begging for chips of ice. I commenced this article by using the word "few" reminiscences which I have violated several paragraphs back. I may have gotten a little too enthused but could not find a "quitting" place. I know you could add a great number of other interesting items. Why not write them?

William W. Parker

A delightful story-ed.

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THE FARM TILE INDUSTRY

Salt Creek township with its heavier soil had three tile factories in earlier days. An area often referred to as the "flats", draining the land was a requisite for productive farming. The necessary ingredients were there- namely clay, firewood and labor- the latter the hard working kind.

The last of these plants was located one-half mile East of New Pennington and was owned and operated by John Korte until about 1912. The process of making tile was comparatively simple. Hired help with shovel and spade would dig the clay from the field and load it into horse-drawn wagons to be hauled to the kiln. A special grade, blue in color, the clay was dumped into a large receiving bin. Although no mention is made of a pug-mill, water was introduced and then the clay was shoveled into the pugmill for mixing to give a homogeneous mass. The next step would be forming the tile by forcing the somewhat fluid clay through a die or extruding it- something akin to a sausage stuffer. Here is where the distaff side of the family would play a part. She with a wire-like device would cut the tile into twelve-inch lengths as it came from the "sausage stuffer". By careful handling the green tile were then transferred to stalls and allowed to dry. When properly dried they were placed in the kiln for firing which took about three days.

Mr. Korte had one kiln, a round dome-like structure built of brick. The firing was something to which he gave his personal attention. The first day was a slow firing to keep the tile from cracking. Later and finally a hotter fire was introduced. The fuel of course was cord wood cut into

four-foot lengths of which there was an ample supply. A continuous process Mr. Korte fired every hour around the clock. The tile were then allowed to cool for several days before being removed from the kiln where they were placed in ricks in the tile yard ready for sale.

At first the machinery was run by horse power and later by a stationary steam engine. The Korte tile factory was in a shed 100 to 125 feet long, connected to the kiln. A track ran through the shed to the kilns. When the factory was in operation, it took about eight men to do the work involved in making and handling the tile.

Another such tile factory was located just East of Middle Branch, along the old state highway. The site can be identified by the pits left after the clay was removed. This was an operation by the Doles Bros., namely Pleasant, Thomas, William Sr. and Lafayette. The last operator was John Redington this about 1899. Some employees were William Keeley, Fred Osting, Lander Scudder, John Mowery, John Duncan, Joe Warner Sr. and others. The brothers also made brick here and operated a saw-mill in conjunction.

Another kiln was located about three-quarters of a mile East of the Doles plant. It was operated by Isaac Deilks. However the tile was molded by Doles and hauled to the Deilks plant for firing.

The third tile factory was located one-half mile South of Mechanicsburg, about which there is no information extant. The site can be located by the "hole in the ground".

Anna Korte Siebert
Walter S.D. Clark
Marshall Hart
Chas. G. Williams

BE AN EARLY BIRD! Save postage by paying your 1973 membership at the dinner meeting. Annual dues are still one dollar!

* * *

COMMITTEES

Nominations:

Mr. & Mrs. Orris C. Elder
Mr. & Mrs. Russell E. Powner
Mr. & Mrs. Glenn Gault
Mr. & Mrs. Russell Thornburg

Exhibit:

Mr. & Mrs. Van P. Batterton
Mr. & Mrs. Raymond F. Carr

Decorations:

Mr. & Mrs. Charles A. Walls

Audit:

Miss Marguerite Tillson
Mrs. Dorothy Shannon

Calling:

Miss Gladys Aldrich
Mrs. Bertha Alexander
Mrs. Winston Ball
Mrs. Stacy Brant
Mrs. George Burkert
Miss Helen Bussell
Mrs. Carl Clark
Mrs. George Greer
Mrs. Lavelle Hamilton
Mrs. Carl Hessler
Mrs. Leonella Lauderdale
Mrs. H. S. McKee
Mrs. Albert Moyer
Mrs. Raymond Moeller
Mrs. Dale Parker
Mrs. Pansy Reed
Mrs. Hartford Sallee
Mrs. Nolan Skinner
Mrs. Herbert Taylor
Mrs. Alden Westhafer
Miss Victoria Woolverton

Reception:

Mr. & Mrs. Dale F. Parker
Mr. & Mrs. George Greer

SPEAKING OF GEORGE LITTELL-
Mr. Littell was approached one day by a Salvation Army lassie for a donation. He being somewhat hesitant about giving, she asked- "Don't you want to go to Heaven?"

"Hope"- Mr. Littell replied,
"Greensburg is good enough for me."

* * *

THE SOCIETY'S OFFICERS 1972

President-----Dale G. Myers
1st. V.P.-----Van P. Batterton
2nd V.P.-----Raymond Carr
Corresponding Secy.-----
Mrs. Leonella Lauderdale
710 N. Franklin St.
Greensburg, Indiana 47240
Recording Secy.-----
Mrs. Dorothy D. Doles
303 E. Central Ave.
Greensburg, Indiana
47240
Treasurer-----Miss Alpha Thackery

* * *

MEMBERSHIP- Open to everyone having an interest in history and his heritage. The annual dues are \$1.00 each, payable in advance. The fiscal year ends December 31st. Please direct all matters of membership to the Recording Secretary.

* * *

Who has knowledge of the so-called "Black Diamond Railroad" that was surveyed in Decatur County about 1900? The Editor would appreciate more information.

THE BULLETIN

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF DECATUR COUNTY

Volume 2 - No. 54

Greensburg, Indiana

December 1, 1972

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Mrs. DeForrest Bowman-Indpls.
Michael Moxley Diven - Austin, Texas
Donald Polston
Mrs. Connie Polston 726

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IN MEMORIAM - Our former president Forrest McCardle, passed away on Sept. 9, 1972. A native of Cincinnati, he grew up in Greensburg which he knew and loved so well. A brilliant conversationalist, it was a pleasure to converse with him. Serving as president of the Historical Society for three consecutive years in addition to his other civic interests, he was always the leader and able to get whatever he undertook off the ground. Capable, tireless and above everything else, congenial - he was a man you were glad to know. -ed

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The committee for the display invites members to bring items of interest that are one-hundred years old. They further suggest that a card be attached with the name of the owner and other pertinent information.

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This year's dinner will be a SMORGASBUFFET - take your choice and all that you can eat for \$2.50 payable at the door. Dinner by reservation only and must be made by December 6th. If you have not already been contacted, please call Mrs. Dale G. Myers at 663-4370

OCCASION: Fourteenth Annual Dinner Meeting and Election of Officers.

SPEAKER: Hon. Lee H. Hamilton

DATE: Saturday night, December 9th, 1972 at 6:00 P.M.

PLACE: Fellowship Hall,
Presbyterian Church,
N.E. Corner Public Square,
Greensburg, Indiana.
Entrance on Washington St.

Mr. Hamilton born in Florida and reared in Evansville, is a Hoosier by adoption. A graduate of Evansville Central H.S. in 1948, he received the coveted Arthur L. Trester Award in basketball. Going on to DePauw University he graduated there in 1952 cum laude, receiving the Walker Cup as the school's outstanding Senior. He attended Goethe University, Frankfurt, Germany on a scholarship 1952-1953 and graduated from Indiana University Law School in 1956. First elected to Congress in 1964 defeating the long-time Republican incumbent, he has continued to serve our own 9th. district with distinction. He was reelected to his fifth term in November by an overwhelming majority. Congressman Hamilton is married, has three children and lives in Columbus.

EVERYBODY IS WELCOME!!

"THOSE WERE THE DAYS"-----

A few reminiscences of Greensburg, I bring to you, as I saw them as a small boy on North Franklin Street, during the early years of this century. Some will recall with a special nostalgia some of the conditions, events, and stories of the "good old days" of the horse and buggy, coal oil lights, and outdoor toilets. We knew no better, so did not mind. Thanks are due to people like Elwood Haynes, Henry Ford, Thomas Edison, Alexander Bell, John Deere, Cyrus McCormick, and many others who thought "there must be a better way" and did something about it. As I look back, the period of this century up to World War I included some of the best years of my life. Everyone was at peace with himself, everyone who wanted work could find a job, neighbors had time to visit neighbors, or cool off on the front porch after the day's work. Now, if you call upon your friend or neighbor, you probably would be interfering with a favorite TV or radio program.

Greensburg was a quiet, peaceful little city of 5000 population, more or less. A large number were retired farmers. A farm family might, over their productive years, earn their 80 acres or more, sell it, and with the interest it would earn plus the cheap food and by being reasonably frugal, live very comfortably. A great number were also Civil War pensioners-\$90 every three months. Every lot had a house, a barn for a horse, sometimes a cow, a shed for the buggy or surroy, a hen house and a garden.

My parents were farm people who never lost their love for the land. We had a horse "Old Billie" who lived to a ripe old age of 28 years and was a very familiar figure on the streets of Greensburg. We, as many others, owned a cow. In the summer the cows were pastured on the outskirts and you either went out to pail them or brought them into town. Mr. Ferd Gilchrist, who resided at Franklin and Walnut, was the only man I know who could load a cow while riding a bicycle in the rain and holding an umbrella over his head. We kept our cow for our own milk, cream and butter and sold the surplus. For years we furnished milk to Mr. and Mrs. C.C. Lowe, parents of Walter Lowe, Mr. Charles Woodward, the banker, and Dr. D. W. Weaver.

There was no organized recreation, so we made our own. Of course baseball came first, but we also had marbles, run-sheep-run, rock-on-davy, etc., sometimes playing under the street lights at night. There were many other body-building activities, although not so popular, as mowing the yard (the mower was always dull), cleaning the stable, spading the garden, picking the fruit and nettles, and helping with the washing (we finally had a washer run with a crank.) One of the bi-annual tasks was taking up the carpets, hanging them over the clothes-line, and beating out the dust.

I suspect it is the little events which are remembered with the greatest satisfaction, as the stone jar of "New Orleans" molasses cookies that Aunt Nancy Meek kept on the cellar steps or the corn pone Mrs. Chester Edkins made that was so good. Both of these fine ladies were very generous to small boys. There was the time I fell into the slop bucket for which, to add to my humiliation, I had a very gleeful audience!

Everyone who wanted a job could get one, though the pay was very small according to today's wages. Bob Sanders (who lived in Gainesville, north of First St. along Lincoln, named for the Gaines buggy and carriage factory, the brick building now used by the city sanitary department) would pass our house every morning with his dinner pail on his way to the roundhouse, work

on the section all day, trudge by in the evening, at least a four-mile walk, and bring home another dollar. "Another day, another dollar!"

In addition to Gainesville, there was a section of town, north of First and west of the Michigan Division, called Oklahoma, why, I never knew. The Highland addition, west of Mill street (now West street) was opened up in this era. The lots were sold at auction and were laid out about 27 feet in width so a buyer would have to purchase two or three lots to have ample building space. For some reason this addition did not go over too well and only in the last few years has it begun to expand. Irish town lay mostly south of the roundhouse along Monfort and Ireland streets. The name is self-explanatory. William applegate built a row of identical houses, on East Central Ave., which are still standing.

George Littell one of the most colorful persons who ever lived in Greensburg, owned a great number of houses in the east end of town, mostly sub-standard. The Littells were one of the older families of Greensburg. They operated brick yards which furnished brick for most of the older buildings and sidewalks. Originally the citizen walked in the mud and dust. With abundant lumber, board walks began to appear.

Long stringers were laid down with shorter planks laid crosswise. Someone decided that brick would be more lasting so soon the town was criss-crossed with brick walks. These were laid in a diagonal pattern with a base of sand. They were a great improvement, but the weeds and grass were hard to control. Stone slabs, called flagging, were used around the square and in front of some houses. With the perfection of cement, a movement was started to replace the brick walks with cement sidewalks.

George lived on East Main street and owned ground south of the railroad. This was used for the circus lot. At least one major show made our town each summer. The boys and many adults rose early to watch the unloading in the railroad yards by the freight house and hurried out to the grounds to watch the erection of the tents. Then the greatest spectacle of all was the mammoth street parade with all its pageantry and glitter! Horses and buggies were parked hub to hub around the hitchrack and side streets and the livery stables were running over. It was indeed a memorable day in Greensburg.

These grounds were also the home of the Greensburg Reds, sponsored mainly by Creath Loyd. The Reds were always one of the outstanding semi-pro teams in this part of Indiana. Later, a team sponsored by the Eagles Lodge was fielded and another by the Ironclad Clothing Co. called the Ironclads. Another annual event was the appearance of Vogel's minstrels of which Jimmie Withers, a local boy, was a member. Also annually was the presentation of Loyd's minstrels with local talent including Creath Loyd, Jimmie Withers, Louis McHenry, "Hash" Morris, the Seward boys, Elmer and Muggler, Bricks McKay, as interlocutor, and many others equally talented. A few years ago our local paper published a feature story by Kenneth Rinker on this group. They could hardly be called amateurs.

The annual County Fair was held on the fairgrounds, the present site of the new Greensburg Community high school, with horse racing, the usual displays, horse-drawn farm machinery, livestock, cakes and home-canned goods, etc. Horse-drawn hacks, with seats along the sides, left the DeArmond Hotel corner every ten minutes with Al Waybright, William Brazelton, and

Alex Trindle making their pitch for passengers. "One more and we'll go right out!" The annual Chautauqua was held in a tent in Bracken's Woods which was north across Central Ave. from the old high school building. The tent was erected approximately on the site of the Dr. Kuhn home. For those who might not know what this is, a Chautauqua is an educational or entertaining program conducted by traveling lecturers, musicians, and entertainers traveling from town to town. Among some of the entertainers I remember were William Jennings Bryan, Sousa and his famous band and a group of Swiss bell ringers. So you see when we include a street fair which lasted all week, we had a pretty busy summer and all of it right at home.

During this era the Sanitary Department was the "Slopman". George Littell had the contract for collecting the garbage. He sent a man up and down the alleys with a team and a wagon with a metal tank. A cow bell attached to the end of the tongue signaled the arrival and departure. This collection was processed through George's hogs and resold to the people. So recycling is really nothing new! At one time I delivered some thin sows which my father sold to George. Two of these got out on the railroad and were killed. The value of these unfortunate hogs increased real fast. Mr. Littell had a team of white oxen, "Buck and Bright", which were much in demand by the young folks for hay rides. Slow- but who was in a hurry? I have a picture of a group of young folks from the Methodist Church taking one of these rides. Grace Murphy is the only one I recognize.

We had two school buildings. The West Building of eight grades and the high school and the East building for the first six grades only. The alley between Broadway and Franklin was the dividing line, so I spent my first six years at the East school and then finished at the West, graduating with the class of 1914. This was the last class graduating from this school. A high board fence divided the playground. At the East school the boys played on the east and the girls on the west. Woe to boy or girl who was caught on the wrong side! An outdoor toilet was on each side. When the West school was torn down several years ago, we salvaged several loads of stone and lumber which we used in building our present home. I especially prize two large step stones from the east entrance. We have used them for the hearth and mantle for the fireplace in our home. They are worn smooth by many a footstep, mine included.

A most fearful sound, especially at night, was the ringing of the fire alarm. A clapper was attached to the bell in the courthouse tower and was operated from the ground by jerk of a wire. It has not been used for years. This alarm could be heard all over town and alerted the people to the danger. Soon, Fred Boyle, our neighbor who was one of the firemen, would come running by and if at night, people along the street would ask the location of the fire. The fires which destroyed the Greensburg Carriage Factory and the Doles Spoke and Rim Factory are two that I remember. Neither was rebuilt. For the boys, the carriage factory fire eliminated the clipping from the ends of tire bolts - prized for sling-shot ammunition. We never realized how lethal they were.

For a water supply, large cisterns were dug. I remember one on each corner of the square and one at Franklin and Walnut. A bright red steam pumper, highly embellished with brass, was housed in the firehouse and used to pump water from the cisterns. With the installation of a piped pressure system all over town, the steam pumper was retired, and a hose

wagon was pulled by a black team and driven for many years by "Billie" Withers. A ladder wagon, pulled by a white team and driven by Link Boeson, was purchased. These teams were a common sight on the streets of Greensburg as they were exercised every good day. Another familiar figure on the streets was Mose Wallace. We were using carbon lights, the carbon of which had to be clipped or replaced when they got too short. Mose had the job of replacing these carbons. I can see him now carrying his leather pouch of new carbons and a glass-footed stool to insulate him from the ground.

Before I close, let us not forget the ice man. The Meek Ice Co. sent horse-drawn wagons over town, replenishing the ice boxes- about all the refrigeration we had. The ice man was sort of a modern "Pied Piper" as a group of children was always following him, begging for chips of ice. I commenced this article by using the word "few" reminiscences which I have violated several paragraphs back. I may have gotten a little too enthused but could not find a "quitting" place. I know you could add a great number of other interesting items. Why not write them?

William W. Parker

A delightful story-ed.

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THE FARM TILE INDUSTRY

Salt Creek township with its heavier soil had three tile factories in earlier days. An area often referred to as the "flats", draining the land was a requisite for productive farming. The necessary ingredients were there- namely clay, firewood and labor- the latter the hard working kind.

The last of these plants was located one-half mile East of New Pennington and was owned and operated by John Korte until about 1912. The process of making tile was comparatively simple. Hired help with shovel and spade would dig the clay from the field and load it into horse-drawn wagons to be hauled to the kiln. A special grade, blue in color, the clay was dumped into a large receiving bin. Although no mention is made of a pug-mill, water was introduced and then the clay was shoveled into the pugmill for mixing to give a homogeneous mass. The next step would be forming the tile by forcing the somewhat fluid clay through a die or extruding it- something akin to a sausage stuffer. Here is where the distaff side of the family would play a part. She with a wire-like device would cut the tile into twelve-inch lengths as it came from the "sausage stuffer". By careful handling the green tile were then transferred to stalls and allowed to dry. When properly dried they were placed in the kiln for firing which took about three days.

Mr. Korte had one kiln, a round dome-like structure built of brick. The firing was something to which he gave his personal attention. The first day was a slow firing to keep the tile from cracking. Later and finally a hotter fire was introduced. The fuel of course was cord wood cut into

four-foot lengths of which there was an ample supply. A continuous process Mr. Korte fired every hour around the clock. The tile were then allowed to cool for several days before being removed from the kiln where they were placed in ricks in the tile yard ready for sale.

At first the machinery was run by horse power and later by a stationary steam engine. The Korte tile factory was in a shed 100 to 125 feet long, connected to the kiln. A track ran through the shed to the kilns. When the factory was in operation, it took about eight men to do the work involved in making and handling the tile.

Another such tile factory was located just East of Middle Branch, along the old state highway. The site can be identified by the pits left after the clay was removed. This was an operation by the Doles Bros., namely Pleasant, Thomas, William Sr. and Lafayette. The last operator was John Redington this about 1899. Some employees were William Keeley, Fred Osting, Lander Scudder, John Mowery, John Duncan, Joe Warner Sr. and others. The brothers also made brick here and operated a saw-mill in conjunction.

Another kiln was located about three-quarters of a mile East of the Doles plant. It was operated by Isaac Deilks. However the tile was molded by Doles and hauled to the Deilks plant for firing.

The third tile factory was located one-half mile South of Mechanicsburg, about which there is no information extant. The site can be located by the "hole in the ground".

Anna Korte Siebert
Walter S.D. Clark
Marshall Hart
Chas. G. Williams

BE AN EARLY BIRD! Save postage by paying your 1973 membership at the dinner meeting. Annual dues are still one dollar!

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COMMITTEES

Nominations:

Mr. & Mrs. Orris C. Elder
Mr. & Mrs. Russell E. Powner
Mr. & Mrs. Glenn Gault
Mr. & Mrs. Russell Thornburg

Exhibit:

Mr. & Mrs. Van P. Batterton
Mr. & Mrs. Raymond F. Carr

Decorations:

Mr. & Mrs. Charles A. Walls

Audit:

Miss Marguerite Tillson
Mrs. Dorothy Shannon

Calling:

Miss Gladys Aldrich
Mrs. Bertha Alexander
Mrs. Winston Ball
Mrs. Stacy Brant
Mrs. George Burkert
Miss Helen Bussell
Mrs. Carl Clark
Mrs. George Greer
Mrs. Lavelle Hamilton
Mrs. Carl Hessler
Mrs. Leonella Lauderdale
Mrs. H. S. McKee
Mrs. Albert Meyer
Mrs. Raymond Moeller
Mrs. Dale Parker
Mrs. Pansy Reed
Mrs. Hartford Sallee
Mrs. Nolan Skinner
Mrs. Herbert Taylor
Mrs. Alden Westhafer
Miss Victoria Woolvorton

Reception:

Mr. & Mrs. Dale F. Parker
Mr. & Mrs. George Greer

SPEAKING OF GEORGE LITTELL-
Mr. Littell was approached one day by a Salvation Army lassie for a donation. He being somewhat hesitant about giving, she asked- "Don't you want to go to Heaven?"

"Hope"- Mr. Littell replied,
"Greensburg is good enough for me."

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THE SOCIETY'S OFFICERS 1972

President-----Dale G. Myers
1st. V.P.-----Van P. Batterton
2nd V.P.-----Raymond Carr
Corresponding Secy.-----

Mrs. Leonella Lauderdale
710 N. Franklin St.
Greensburg, Indiana 47240

Recording Secy.-----

Mrs. Dorothy D. Doles
303 E. Central Ave.
Greensburg, Indiana
47240

Treasurer-----Miss Alpha Thackery

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MEMBERSHIP- Open to everyone having an interest in history and his heritage. The annual dues are \$1.00 each, payable in advance. The fiscal year ends December 31st. Please direct all matters of membership to the Recording Secretary.

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Who has knowledge of the so-called "Black Diamond Railroad" that was surveyed in Decatur County about 1900? The Editor would appreciate more information.